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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Lawyers Federation Demands Trial of POW Killers

NC0309142895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)— The Arab Lawyers Federation stated that the killing of Egyptian POW's by some Israeli military commanders during the 1956 and 1967 wars was a serious violation of international law, particularly the Third Geneva convention of 1949 and The Hague agreements of 1899 and 1907.

The federations issued a statement today demanding an investigation into these horrid crimes and that those involved be tried as war criminals.

The federation called on international and Arab organizations as well as associations, societies, and powers concerned with human rights to organize a campaign to bring the perpetrators of these racist crimes to trial, pointing out that such crimes have no statute of limitations.

League Assistant Chief on Israeli 'Scheme'

NC0409153595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League stated that Israel is adopting schemes to hamper the peace process in the region and create tensions which could lead the peace process into the abyss of stalemate and eventual failure. Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant Arab League secretary general for international political affairs, said in statements today that he informed the Netherlands parliamentary delegation currently visiting Egypt on a regional tour of the firm Arab stance on peace; that it must be based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and international Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which the Madrid peace conference adopted.

He informed the Netherlands side, and the European side in general, that Arab national resistance of the occupation is a legitimate resistance so long as Israeli occupation of Arab territories continues. He affirmed the Arab countries' desire to bolster Arab-European dialogue and not to fragment the Arab stance when dealing with Europe.

'Imran stressed that in order to hamper the peace process Israel exploits certain international sides to take stances detrimental to the negotiations. He clarified that Israel, which does not believe peace is a strategic need for the region, does not at the same time want to see the emergence of U.S.-Arab or European-Arab relations based on confidence, understanding, and equality.

The Arab League assistant secretary general said that there is hope that the United States and the European Union will realize the extent of the Israeli scheme and will keep practicing their responsibilities as sponsors of the peace process and permanent members of the Security Council until Israel realizes that peace cannot be established or relations normalized while occupation and aggression continue.

Mediterranean Arab Countries Hold Conference

Algeria's Dembri Comments

LD0409222195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the Mediterranean Arab countries ended in Algiers today. The issues of economic integration, security and democracy were discussed over two days, as well as a joint Arab initiative with a view to the Euro-Mediterranean conference scheduled to take place in Barcelona in November. Our foreign minister, Mohamed Salah Dembri, comments on the Arab initiative.

[Begin Dembri recording] The main issue for us is the enlargement to Libya and Mauritania. The second issue for us is the so-called common prosperity zone. We do not have similar levels of development as far as debt, commercial exchanges and structural adjustment are concerned, a levelling is necessary. You know, when the Europeans map out their development programs, the least developed countries are subsidized so that they reach the same level of development. This is called levelling. We are told to carry out structural adjustment. In that respect we have assets: we have a healthy agriculture, we have a sound industrial basis, we also have energy sources. As a consequence, these are considered as common factors. However, what will be done to enable us to develop very quickly?

The acute question of freedom of movement will also be on the agenda of the Barcelona negotiations. We are under the impression that European space is closed to the countries south of the Mediterranean. Is it possible to talk about cooperation without talking also about freedom of movement? [end recording]

Conference Concludes

LD0409215095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior officials and experts from Arab countries bordering the Mediterranean concluded their meeting at the Algiers Hotel today. The meeting was to prepare for the Barcelona summit and a working

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document between the Arab Mediterranean countries on security and the economy was approved.

The European-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona is scheduled for 27 and 28 November.

The participants stressed that the Barcelona conference could open up new cooperation horizons. Algeria is to prepare a draft document which will be submitted to the Arab delegates during the consultative meeting in early October prior to the meeting with the European Troika in Brussels. The participants called for a climate of security and stability in the Mediterranean and for a fair partnership between the two sides.

Two points were stressed. One calls for the end of geographical division. The second calls for upholding peace while considering security, cooperation and development.

The participants agreed to strengthen democracy and human rights with respect for national values and individuality. They affirmed the need to coordinate efforts to combat all forms of extremism.

Concerning disarmement all participants agreed the Mediterranean countries should join nuclear nonproliferation treaties. They have demanded that Israel join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and place all its installations under the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The participants voiced the need to create a balanced economic and social cooperation which provides favourable conditions that prioritizes cooperation on the basis a collective agreement between all the sides and making sacrifices for the sake of solidarity as well as providing a better protection for the Arab expatriates in Europe and defending their rights.

At the end of the meeting the participants recommended a ministerial meeting of the Mediterranean countries be convened on the sideline of the Arab League council meeting due in Cairo on 19 September to convey to the European side the Arab perspective concerning a number of issues including the question of taking part in the Barcelona conference.

Islamic Affairs

International Islamic Conference Opens in Baghdad

Jihad Against U.S., Israel Urged

NC0409145595 Paris AFP in English
1401 GMT 04 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 4 (AFP) - A call for a holy war against the United States and Israel was issued Monday [4 September] at the opening of an international Islamic conference here attended by more than 2,000 people.

Speaking at the opening session of the three-day meeting, Muhammad Tahir al-Qadri, head of the Koran preaching organisation in Pakistan, urged "Moslems all over the world to start a Jihad against the United States and Israel."

Nearly 100 participants came from abroad, mainly Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Jordan, Sudan, Egypt and Syria, and also from non-Moslem states such as Russia, Australia, Germany and the United States.

'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of Iraq's top political body, the Revolutionary Command Council, also lashed out at the U.S. and the Jewish state.

"The United States is the enemy of the Arabs. It aims with its ally Israel to undermine the development of the Arabs and Moslems", he said.

"The United States and the West have launched a war against Iraq because Iraq has made a lot of progress in various fields, and this is against their wishes," he added.

He charged Washington with using "the UN Security Council as a tool to issue resolutions against Iraq."

The conference, organised by the Baghdad-based Popular Islamic Conference Organisation (PICO), is to discuss the UN oil and trade ban imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and "Islamic unity and solidarity."

PICO, an umbrella of Islamic non-gouvernmental organisations, was set up in Baghdad in 1983 and it last met in the Iraqi capital in 1993.

Iraq's Ibrahim Criticizes U.S., UN

JN0409160295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1400 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—Under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn, the World Popular Islamic Conference Organization began its three-day session here today under the slogan: "Lifting the Suffering of the Muslims and Ending the Siege of the Iraqis Are the Responsibility of Every Muslim." 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], deputized for the president.

'Izzat Ibrahim delivered a speech which he began by conveying President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the participants and his wishes of success.

Ibrahim said: As you know, aggression was declared against your country, Iraq, because of the continuous

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hostility and antagonistic stand adopted by the Zionist movement and the West against any Islamic Arab and faith awakening. Such awakening will inevitably produce an influential force which will put an end to the policy of plundering adopted by the criminal colonialist forces which were never moved by any ethical or humanitarian deterrence in their dealing with the world and its nations, particularly with our nation. One of their reports says: Danger lies in this region, particularly in terms of its liberation, educating its people, its development, and unifying its trends.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: Therefore, the colonialist countries are working toward maintaining backwardness, divisions, and disputes in the region and keeping its people fragmented and ignorant. Also, these countries want people in this region to stay far away from their values, principles, and belief. They say: We must fight against the unity of this people and against any kind of intellectual, spiritual, and historic union. We must find strong scientific methods to separate them and to sow seeds of hostility and hatred among its sons.

The RCC vice chairman said: In accordance with this despicable, rancorous recommendation, which demonstrates this blatant historic hostility, these colonialist countries found that the pillars of the Islamic Arab awakening are in Baghdad, Baghdad of the militant leader Saddam Husayn. They also found that the radical changes are expanding and accelerating to build this national, pan-Arab, humanitarian, faithful edifice whose foundations are being entrenched and strength is solidifying day by day, giving a shining example of the capability of the Arabs and Muslims to become an example for others.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: The fact that Iraq made many achievements that could ensure a prosperous future for the nation threw terror in the hearts of colonialist and Zionist states. They thought of this as exceeding the limits they defined in their malicious circles.

Thus, the United States, the zenith of imperialism and enemy of the Arabs, their unity, and progress, along with its ally, the Zionist entity, stood openly against the Arab and Islamic nations and went public about its plans to attack Iraq, the base of the nation's progress, especially since Iraq emerged victorious over the Iranian aggressors.

The United States launched a feverish campaign to mobilize world public opinion against Iraq under various pretexts and fabrications. The United States took advantage of the United Nations and the Security Council to issue unjust resolutions.

The RCC vice chairman added: The United States and its allies mounted a barbaric, unprecedented aggression whose main target was the creative Iraqi individual. The aggression sought to destroy Iraq's cultural and scientific achievements. This is because the United States and its allies realized that the son of the Tigris and Euphrates will restore the nation's cultural vision, resurrect its heritage, and open the door wide for the progress of the nation. This will enable the nation to play a role as it did under the leadership of Prophet Muhammad, who preached a valuable religion, honorable language, noble principles, and great ethics. At that time, the West was living in darkness and ignorance. The West achieved progress after it interacted with the Arab nation and learned from its views of faith, science, literature, and morals.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: The aggression against Iraq was targeted against the ambitions of an entire nation and not against a leading people on this spot. Thanks to the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn, this people managed to chart a pioneering development policy. This policy has strongly expressed itself since the 17-30 July revolution and set a pioneering example for the Arab nation and the Third World.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: The United States and the West are now looking at the world around them from only one angle; namely, the angle of material interests only. As our region is one of the most splendid world areas attracting colonialist ambitions, the immortal Mother of Battles was a holy war against a collective colonialist phenomenon and was not a war between two parties. It was also a war and jihad against the phenomenon of looting and destroying the infrastructure of any developing country, the phenomenon of divide and rule and of fomenting seditions and creating differences, of eliminating values and principles, and so on. This would render the Arab and Islamic world backward, so it would continue to be palatable to them and an open market for them.

He said: Hence, the great Mother of Battles was a torch that revealed the false values they claim as well as a hard test for the United Nations as a world organization which has legitimate humanitarian objectives and which was viewed by the world as a refuge which secures rights and a means for world security and stability. However, the United Nations turned out to be a U.S. organization or an organization for the big powers only, and it was prepared and even dedicated to implementing the decisions of these big powers.

'Izzat Ibrahim added: Throughout militant Iraq's bitter and long confrontation of the Security Council and its unjust resolutions, the United Nations could not, even

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once, rise to the level of humanitarian expectations in terms of standing alongside us in achieving our rights which are now obvious to the entire world. On the contrary, the United Nations turned a deaf ear to the calls of Iraq which fulfilled all its commitments in order to relieve the Iraqi people by lifting the unjust blockade.

He continued: Your people in Iraq have passed through five years and are entering the sixth year of the blockade. During these years, the United States has been implementing what Zionism desired in terms of starving and annihilating these faithful, mujahid, and lofty people. However, through its message which is linked to our nation's cultural depth, the Iraqi people's faithful national leadership has circumvented all difficult circumstances which were created by the U.S. monster and by some of its henchmen and followers at the Security Council, who are the followers of Satan.

Shaykh Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sa'di delivered the speech of the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization, in which he said: The enemies of Islam and Muslims are lying in wait for the nation to deprive it of its Islamic identity, character, and dignity, to plunder its wealth, and to control its sons.

Shaykh al-Sa'di added: The enemies closed ranks on all fronts to stand against the Arab and Islamic nation and escalated their plots to impose capitulation on its sons. He noted that the siege imposed on Iraq is an Arab Islamic siege that is being implemented at American and Zionist orders.

Shaykh Dr. Muhammad Tahir al-Qadiri, head of the world organization for the Koran curriculum; Dr. Kamal Ahmad Sha'th from Egypt; Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sa'id from America; and Shaykh Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir from Jordan, delivered speeches in which they called for lifting the unjust siege imposed on Iraq's children, women, and old men. They said that the siege imposed on Iraq and its militant people is a demonstration of American arrogance which conflicts with heavenly values and international norms and charters. They also called for implementing the UN resolutions against the Zionist entity, which usurped Palestine, reaffirming that the United States stands against any international resolution which condemns that entity and gives it billions of dollars to continue its injustice and its coercion against the people of Palestine.

The conference — in which 200 religious, intellectual, and scientific figures from 50 countries representing Islamic unions, societies, and organizations in the world are participating — will discuss five basic topics. These topics deal with the responsibilities of a Muslim toward his brother Muslim according to Islamic law, the duties of Muslims in mending the rift in the ranks of the Islamic nation, the useful and effective methods to lift the suffering of Muslims, and finally, promoting the Islamic call through wisdom and dialogue far away from extremism and violence.

The Executive Council of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization will hold an expanded meeting in connection with the conference to elect the chairman of the Executive Bureau and the secretary general of the organization.

Ibrahim Receives Conference Participants

JN0409182595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, today received a number of personalities participating in the Seventh World Popular Islamic Conference currently being held in Baghdad.

During the meeting, 'Izzat Ibrahim lauded the jihad spirit and courageous positions shown by the intellectual and Islamic personalities and movements in support of Iraq's heroic, faithful, and historic positions while confronting the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. These conspiracies are targeting the Arab-Islamic awakening which is shining from the land of Iraq under mujahid President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

The Islamic personalities expressed their support for Iraq while continuing the march of its honorable jihad despite the circumstances of the unjust colonialist blockade imposed by the enemies of God and mankind. They also asserted that the banner of God is Great, which is hoisted by mijahid leader President Saddam Husayn in defense of Islam's pride and dignity, will continue to flutter, and that the rancor of the despotic enemies will turn against them with the help of God, the supporter of the faithful mujahidin.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 22 Aug

NC0109100695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 22 August edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Perpetrators of Crimes Against POW's Should be Tried, Paper Says
2. Rajab Reassures al-Azhar Imam That Egypt's Views Are Firm
3. World Islamic Council For Call, Relief Meets in Cairo on 31 Aug

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4. Editorial Criticizes Israel for Justifying Killing of POW's
5. Christian Writer Honored by Mubarak Praises Egypt's Tolerance
6. Islamic Studies School Dean on Working Women, Dr. Abu-Zayd
7. Scholar Responds to Promotion of Political Islam Concept
8. Article Criticizes Beijing Women's Conference Document
9. Article Claims Islam Resolves Problems Listed in Beijing Document
10. U.S. Government Sees Islam as Political Movement, Army Imam Says
11. Writer Wants Justice on POW Issue
12. Columnist Notes Change of Values in Occupied Palestinian Land

PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES AGAINST POW'S SHOULD BE TRIED, PAPER SAYS

Page 1 publishes a 4 by 4.5 inch picture which the paper claims is of the Egyptian POW's "minutes before the massacre" committed by the Israeli forces in al-'Arish in 1967. A 100-word inset paragraph notes that reports about these massacres have caused "angry reactions all over the world." It demands that the perpetrators of these crimes should be tried.

RAJAB REASSURES AL-AZHAR IMAM THAT EGYPT'S VIEWS ARE FIRM

Samir Rajab's "Rightfully I Say" 300-word column on page 1 comments on the women's conference which will take place in Beijing. He commends the al-Azhar shaykh on his views on the conference, but notes that mere participation in the conference does not mean acceptance of everything discussed or approved during it. "Quite the contrary," he argues, "bizarre ideas and opposite viewpoints are the best incentive for us to promote the word of justice and adhere strongly to the principles that religion has planted inside us." He asks the grand imam of al-Azhar to rest assured that Egypt's views are firm and cannot be shaken. "We are not afraid of contrary opinions," he concludes.

WORLD ISLAMIC COUNCIL FOR CALL, RELIEF MEETS IN CAIRO ON 31 AUG

Page 2 publishes a 100-word report that the founding committee of the World Islamic Council for Call and Relief will hold its seventh meeting in Cairo on Thursday, 31 August. Over 200 Islamic figures will attend the meetings. The objective is to increase cooperation among the convening Islamic organizations.

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES ISRAEL FOR JUSTIFYING KILLING OF POW'S

The newspaper's 300-word editorial on page 3 comments on the Israeli massacres of the "Egyptian and Palestinian POW's and civilians in the three wars in 1956, 1967, and 1973." The editorial criticizes the Israeli attitude which contends such crimes "go against the principles of the Israeli Army which is known for its humanitarian values"—the same army that confronts the stone- throwing children of the intifadah with arms and armored vehicles. One perpetrator of these crimes justifies his actions by claiming that he was only doing what the Arab armies do in war. We treat our POW's in accordance with the Islamic shari'ah laws, which are the same for all divine religions, including Judaism, the editorial says. This only proves that the Israelis are lying.

CHRISTIAN WRITER HONORED BY MUBARAK PRAISES EGYPT'S TOLERANCE

Page 3 publishes a 700-word report on the reactions by some of the thinkers and intellectuals who were honored by President Mubarak during the celebrations marking the Prophet's birthday. One of the thinkers is Dr. William Sulayman Qalladah, former State Council secretary general, a Christian, who was chosen for his religious writings about Christianity and Islam in Egypt. He praises Egypt's leadership for its attitude toward Christianity, noting "Islam and Christianity have not differed in many ways, but have always agreed, and Christianity did not find any land where it could live in peace other than Egypt." He says Christians in Egypt are given much elbow room, which makes Egypt a great place for inter-religious dialogue.

ISLAMIC STUDIES SCHOOL DEAN ON WORKING WOMEN, DR. ABU-ZAYD

Pages 8 and 9 publish lengthy reports on 'AQIDATI's religious convoys, one of which met with a new batch of religiously-outstanding young men and women at Ra's al-Barr camp. Discussion focussed on various issues, including laws governing working women and the case of Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu-Zayd, the professor who has been branded an apostate and ordered to leave his wife. On the first issue, Dr. Su'ad Salih, dean of the Arab and Islamic Studies School for Girls in al-Mansurah, al-Azhar University, answers that it is a duty for women to work, like men, but they have to adhere to Islamic laws and not mix with men. On the second issue, Dr. Salih summarizes Dr. Abu-Zayd's ideas and thinking and draws the conclusion that since he denies parts of the religion, he is denying the whole religion; therefore,

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he is an apostate who should be separated from his Muslim wife.

SCHOLAR RESPONDS TO PROMOTION OF POLITICAL ISLAM CONCEPT

Page 10 publishes a 1500-word report on statements by Islamic Scholar Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi during celebrations marking the Prophet's birthday at the Journalists' Union. Among the topics he talks about is the issue of political Islam. He responds to those who promote the concept of political Islam and whose intention it is to mock those who call for applying the Islamic shari'ah. Al- Qardawi says: "Islam is not a divine message or merely a religious message. Islam is a Godly and earthly way, a religion and a way of life." Further, al-Qardawi adds: "We do not only wish to apply the shari'ah in a legal sense; we want to live an Islamic life guided by Islamic values, prevailed upon by Islamic concepts, controlled by Islamic morality, and finally governed by Islamic legislatures." Al-Qardawi notes that Islam elevated the dignity of people when it gave freedom to all sides and rights to every person. In addition, Islam is an example of freedom and consultation, he concludes.

ARTICLE CRITICIZES BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE DOCUMENT

Pages 16 and 17 are dedicated to issues relating to the UN Conference on Women. The text of the al-Azhar statement condemning the agenda of the UN Conference on Women to be held in Beijing appears. An article entitled "Reading Into the Beijing 95 Document" is also published on page 16 criticizing various paragraphs of what the article terms "an incomplete translation" of the document into Arabic. It begins by addressing family issues and notes that the document "does not mention the word husband or marriage, but talks about lovers, boyfriends, or companions." According to the document, each party has sexual freedom, and "it gives the right to unmarried as well as married couples to bear children." It also gives women the right to practice homosexuality and to act as surrogate mothers or have artificial insemination. The document deliberately avoids mentioning religion, values, and morality. The word motherhood, allegedly appears only six times throughout the document, which the article claims shows a lack of interest in this subject.

The article also criticizes the handling of non-working mothers, who are degraded by the document since their job of looking after family and home is not financially "profitable." "The document addresses the woman as an employee and worker, not as a mother responsible for a husband and son who will form the structure of the future," the article says. It condemns the document's views on sex education for children, which it believes should be taught at home. The article condemns the document's demand for sexual equality between men and women. It also criticizes the document's attitude toward female circumcision, early marriage, and abortion. It mocks the fact that the document advocates safe abortion, rather than banning it completely, and expresses indignation at the fact that the document advocates sexual freedom between unmarried partners, birth control methods, and homosexual freedom. The article concludes by citing the document: "This violence against women goes back to earlier ways of life and traditional practices. Every action linked to a norm or religion degrades women further. Governments must not allow religious or traditional considerations to apply in order to prevent violence against women."

ARTICLE CLAIMS ISLAM RESOLVES PROBLEMS LISTED IN BEIJING DOCUMENT

A 500-word article by Dr. Laftiyah al-Sab' on pages 16 and 17 also criticizes the Women's Conference document and claims that most of the issues raised in the document as problems for women are not really problems in the Muslim society because Islam accounted for them and solved them 14 centuries ago. She argues that "We have to go to Beijing to show them the dangers of this document and explain to them the Islamic model." As examples, she elaborates on various points contained in the document, one of which is abortion. On this matter, she says: "The document argues the need to secure freedom for abortion among teenage females who are not married. This is why we have to go to Beijing and register our objection. We must not sign the document and we should explain Islam to them which bans abortion. If we sign one part, they will demand the whole. If we sign the document, we will be committed to it."

U.S. GOVERNMENT SEES ISLAM AS POLITICAL MOVEMENT, ARMY IMAM SAYS

Page 20 publishes a 1500-word interview by Muhammad al-Abnudi with the imam of Muslims in the U.S. Army, Captain Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rashid Ahmad. He discusses the situation of Muslims in the United States, who enjoy the same rights and have the same concerns as other American citizens of different religions. He says: "The U.S. government does not view Islam as a religion but as a political movement." He maintains that "we need to understand that the United States is not opposed to Islam. The U.S. takes care only of its interests, and we have to find a new and balanced understanding of this important point." He says U.S. media portray Islam in a negative light due to some terrorist operations that have taken place in the Islamic world. He notes that

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Muslims tend to give Jews in the United States greater importance than they actually deserve.

WRITER WANTS JUSTICE ON POW ISSUE

Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl writes a 2000-word report on page 21 in which he discusses the Israeli crimes against the Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars. He maintains that we all knew such crimes were committed, but we did not have the facts or the evidence at our disposal. He then reviews all the reports that have recently emerged from Israel about this issue, the statements by some of the officers who committed them, the eyewitness reports by others who were there, the counter-arguments that have been released, etc. He concludes by saying: "We in Egypt do not want to blackmail anyone, nor do we want to be told what we already know. We want punishment and we want to implement the principles of international law. We must not remain quiet regarding our just demands until the criminals are handed over and then tried before justice."

COLUMNIST NOTES CHANGE OF VALUES IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN LAND

Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf writes his 400-word "A Call To Reason" column on page 24 in which he comments on the values and standards that have changed in the occupied Palestinian territories. The suicide operations which in the past were considered an act of martyrdom—those who carried them out were considered heroes—are now considered an act of terrorism and are condemned by all sides because they hamper the peace process. We all want peace, but we want a just, comprehensive, and permament peace. Such a peace cannot be established by force, but through understanding and equality of rights and duties. He maintains that Israel's game of stalling and changing the demography of the land has had limited success. He concludes that the Israelis have to change their current way of dealing with and thinking about the Arabs.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat in Italy for Conference, To Meet Pope

Stresses Need To Fight All Extremists

LD0109130395 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1100 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Report by Manuela Falcone in Cernobbio — 'Arafat remarks in Arabic with superimposed Italian translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cernobbio is today the center of foreign policy. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, as always, is taking part in the symposium organized by the Ambrosetti Institute which outlines the political and economic scenarios for the next few months. Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian leader, will arrive this afternoon for a meeting. This morning Peres held a news conference in which he disclosed that Italy was the venue for an important phase in the negotiations between the two delegations at the highest level. The meetings took place in June, under the aegis of Susanna Agnelli, the Italian foreign minister, and up until now there had no been indication of this. But let's go back to 'Arafat. This morning the Palestinian leader was in Rome and was interviewed by Carmen Lasorella.

[Begin recording] [Lasorella] This was an unscheduled and brief but intense visit. Palestinian Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is to be the guest of honor at the Cernobbio meeting being held on the shores of Lake Como, where economy and politics is discussed. He arrived a short while ago in Rome, two hours later than scheduled, to meet with Prime Minister Lamberto Dini and President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. Tomorrow he will meet with the Pope in Castel Gandolfo [Pope's summer residence]. Chairman, what do you expect to come out of this visit?

[Arafat] I expect a lot from this friendly people and government, which have never ceased to support my people in the most difficult times. I am honored and happy to be meeting with Prime Minister Dini and President Scalfaro and even more to be meeting with His Holiness Pope John Paul II tomorrow.

[Lasorella] Could Italy again be a privileged venue for the Middle East peace negotiations?

['Arafat] We hope so. We really hope so.

[Lasorella] Again, recently, there was another attack on the road to peace. Are the threats getting bigger or will the negotiations underway really bring peace?

['Arafat] You know that there are enemies on both sides. There is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] but there is also Israeli extremism. A few days ago they tried to attack the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. This is very serious. The extremists don't want peace and we are here to fight them. You see this letter [video shows Arafat holding hand-written letter]. It was left for me by Mrs. Agnelli before she left for Beijing. It is a gesture of friendship which I appreciate. [end recording]

Meets World Leaders, Peres at Conference

JN0109202095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Report by Samir al-Qaryuti in Cernobbio]

[FBIS Translated Text] I am speaking to you from the city of Cernobbio in the northernmost part of Italy, on Lake Como. President Yasir 'Arafat has arrived here,

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and immediately after his arrival he participated in the meetings of the economic conference being held in this city, which is 40 kilometers from Milan, Italy's industrial capital.

Later, the president met Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at Villa d'Este, the center of this important economic conference. Gianni Agnelli, president of the Fiat group, participated in the meeting. The talks during this tripartite meeting, which is the first of its kind, focused on several economic projects which will be executed in Palestine soon within the framework of reconstructing the State of Palestine.

President 'Arafat received a great welcome by all those who attended this meeting. President Yasir 'Arafat's participation in the Cernobbio meetings is the first by an Arab leader. These meetings discuss the world economic strategies for the next year.

During this session, brother President Yasir 'Arafat met with a large number of world personalities, former Italian officials, and friends of the Palestinian people. President Yasir 'Arafat stated that during his meeting this morning with Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, he requested the Italian Government's support for advancing the peace process. In statements to the Italian television, President 'Arafat said fear of the Likud winning the forthcoming Israeli elections will [words indistinct] the discussions in the negotiating and peace process. However, he explained that besides being an agreement between Israel and Palestine, the Oslo agreement is a world agreement in which the EU took part. He said that the agreement is binding to all signatories.

In a separate development, President 'Arafat will leave for Rome tomorrow morning to meet with His Holiness Pope John Paul II in Castel Gandolfo. As he said a short while ago, he will discuss with his holiness the pope how to turn the year 2000, the world peace jubilee, into a world peace year. He said that the peace aspired by the people of Palestine is a peace for the children of Palestine and the future, and a peace for the future of all peoples of the region.

Discusses Peace Process With Pope

LD0209153695 Rome RAI Radio Uno Network in Italian 1100 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The difficulties in the Middle East peace process were at the heart of the cordial audience between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Pope John Paul II, which took place this morning at Castel Gandolfo — the first meeting between the two since diplomatic ties were established between the Vatican and Israel. Raffaele Luisi reports:

[Luisi] The issue of Jerusalem; a city holy to the three monotheistic religions — a fact which was reaffirmed during a meeting at the Community of Sant'Egidio a few days ago in the Holy City, was at the heart of the friendly meeting this morning at Castel Gandolfo between Yasir 'Arafat and Pope John Paul II. The Pope, who has expressed his concern at the current difficulties in the Middle East peace process, was anxious to hear the views of the leader of the Palestinian people.

The Pope and the Holy See are looking at an internationally guaranteed statute for the Holy City. This desire was reiterated a few days ago by the Pope's envoy to the Holy City, Cardinal Roger (Echevarry) but the hard line being taken by the Israeli Government in its drive to make Jerusalem more Jewish and the exclusion of the Palestinian presence in the city, as demonstrated by the closure of three offices run by Faysal Husayni, has given the Pope cause for concern.

The Pope and 'Arafat also addressed the two problems which are making the peace process in the Middle East fragile and problematic: the terrorism of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which today has announced — according to a Middle East newspaper — the wish to become a political party, and on the other, the hard line of the Israeli right wing and the government in Tel Aviv. It is this hard line which is giving the Papal representatives in Israel cause for concern.

'Arafat Meets With U.S. Consul Edward Abington

JN0509154395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat received U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon. 'Arafat and Abington discussed the latest developments in the peace process, especially the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track and the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles agreement. [passage omitted]

Adviser Welcomes Boycott of Jerusalem Events

JN0509194495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has welcomed the international boycott of Israel's celebrations of the so-called 3,000th anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine this evening, Abu-Rudaynah said this boycott confirms the international strategy which considers Jerusalem occupied

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Palestinian territory in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

President 'Arafat's adviser added that Israel is trying to introduce changes on the ground, and this conflicts with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Radio Terms Celebrations 'Big Lie'

JN0509122395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Sep 95

[Station commentary by Yusuf al-Qazzaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem is the first home of all Muslim and Christian believers. This statement is a fact of religion established by God. Jerusalem is also the capital of Palestine. Palestine was the first homeland of the Canaanites, and the homeland of Jebusites, who were the first to build it before it was chosen by God as the first Qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn when praying] and the first home of all believers in this universe. God chose Jerusalem as the place from which Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, made his night journey to heaven from the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque. God also ordained that it be the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth, God's peace be upon him.

Jerusalem has always been the spiritual meeting place for all people. It was never closed except when Israel occupied it, and prevented Muslims and Christians from performing their religious rites, particularly during the Islamic and the Christian religious feasts.

Upon discussing the political facts pertaining to Jerusalem separate from the religious and historical facts, we find that all countries, led by the United States of America and Russia, the sponsors of the peace process, as well as the West European states, China, and the Security Council member states consider East Jerusalem a Palestinian city occupied in 1967. We would like to add that Jerusalem was never a lost paradise; it is an occupied Palestinian city.

The West European states refused to participate in the Israeli celebrations currently taking place on the occasion of the so-called 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem. This is a clear political stand as well as a clear message from Europe and the Vatican to Israel. It emphasizes the fact that Israel is occupying Jerusalem, and that the European policy toward the holy city did not, and will not, change. The same applies to the Vatican policy toward the holy city.

In dealing with Jerusalem, Israel is ignoring the resolutions passed by the Security Council and the UN General assembly, and the historical, geographic, and demographic facts. It is also ignoring that part of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which says the issue of the final status of Jerusalem will be discussed in the final phase of the negotiations. This explains Israel's procrastination in implementing the various phases of the agreements reached with the Palestinian National Authority and in discussing the Jerusalem question. Israel is trying to evade this issue.

Today, Israel is celebrating the so-called 3,000th anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem. These celebrations are isolated on the international, Arab, and Palestinian levels. Several Israeli thinkers have even considered these celebrations a big lie, which is true. These isolated celebrations, which are based on forgery, are held under the slogan of "The Unified City." Where did the unity of Jerusalem come from? Half of the city's residents are Palestinians, as stated by Israeli Minister Shulamit Aloni when she spoke about the Canaanite city of peace. Only Jews participated in these celebrations, although Jerusalem has never been a Jewish city. It was an occupied city. The Israelis celebrating the Jerusalem anniversary today are lying to themselves, their people, and the entire world.

The Israeli leaders have to respect the fact that Jerusalem is two cities: An Israeli West Jerusalem, and a Palestinian East Jerusalem, which is the capital of the state of Palestine, which is occupied by Israel. No Israeli Government can unilaterally control Jerusalem politically or demographically because that would mean no peace.

There will be no peace without Jerusalem. There will be no life for us Palestinians without Jerusalem. It is our sacred password and the eternal component of the Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian spirit. It has been so for all believers on this earth for 5,000 years when it was first established by the Arab Canaanites, our ancestors. It will remain so forever.

We would like to ask the Israelis, our partners in the peace process: Why can't Jerusalem be a living and realistic model for the future of the Palestinian and Israeli people—a future of coexistence based on mutual respect, a future of peace based on justice, comprehensiveness, equality, and facts. We always said and will continue to say there will be no peace without Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state. Peace begins in Jerusalem and there will be no peace without Jerusalem. It is our home and our life. God and the whole world are with us.

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Tape of 'Arafat 'Inflammatory' Remarks Released

TA0509120995 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 5 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yehoshu'a Mor Yosef]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite his promises, terrorist leader 'Arafat continues to preach violence and war against the Jews.

The Peace Endowment Institute yesterday released another video recording of Yasir 'Arafat's remarks. In a speech at Gaza's al- Azhar University on 6 August, on the occasion of his birthday and the birth of his daughter, 'Arafat stated that "the Palestinian people remain on this land to fight for this land and around this land — and it will be at the forefront until Judgment Day." He went on to say: "We are currently engaged in negotiations, but if the Israelis think that we have no alternative, in the name of Allah, they are wrong. The Palestinian people is prepared to sacrifice its last boy and its last girl for the sake of seeing the flag flying on the walls of Jerusalem... Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine."

The cassette documenting 'Arafat's "conciliatory" remarks shows girls from Gaza at the commencement ceremony of a Palestinian summer camp. The chairman attended the ceremony. The flag seen flying atop the Palestinian Training Authority building includes a map of "Palestine" stretching over the entire territory of the State of Israel.

'Arafat delivered a very serious inflammatory speech a few weeks before the bus bombing in Jerusalem's Ramat Eshkol neighborhood. In it, he praised violence and encouraged acts of "shahadah" or martyrdom. He said he had 1,000 reasons to oppose the Oslo agreement but immediately added that one should not forget the agreement the Prophet Muhammad signed with the Quiraish, which was violated two years later when the entire Jewish tribe was massacred. 'Arafat even asserted that the negotiations with Israel were being held on condition that he attain his goals — first and foremost, Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine — or else, he vowed, he would continue the war against Israel.

Arab expert Dan Shiftan will depart for the United States in the next few days to exhibit the latest cassette of 'Arafat's remarks at the Press Club in a bid to expose to the U.S. public the true face of the archterrorist, hoping this exposure will torpedo the transfer of funds from the U.S. Administration to 'Arafat.

Our correspondent has learned that in the wake of the previous recording of 'Arafat praising Palestinian female terrorists, Foreign Minister Peres — who, as may be recalled, initially claimed that the recording could be a forgery — asked 'Arafat to cease preaching violence and the destruction of Israel, and 'Arafat promised not to make inflammatory speeches. The cassette released yesterday once again shows what his promises are worth.

Hamas Forms Party, Drafts Accord With PA

MM0509125895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Husayn Hijazi: "Hamas Considering Three Options Vis-a-Vis Timing of Announcement of Its Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Big strides have been made as regards the establishment of a political party by the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas." All that remains is to choose the right time to announce the birth of this party.

According to an internal document in the movement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has read, Hamas has indeed formed a preparatory committee to prepare for establishing the party's institutions. And the political bureau has been formed following lengthy consultations, according to the document. It has been decided not to reveal the names of the political bureau members and its head in order to avert security problems.

The document admitted that the movement is faced with an important problem represented in how to announce the party. However, it specified three options as regards the announcement of the party, namely as follows:

First, to announce it unilaterally.

Second, to request a license for the party from the authority.

Third, to reactivate the dialogue and obtain a license on the basis of the dialogue.

The document added that the "preparatory committee is still studying these options and alternatives. And the party will be announced once a suitable view is adopted and conditions are favorable. This is in the knowledge that there are great difficulties with all these options."

Asked whether the Palestinian Authority [PA] agrees to the establishment of such a party, a well-informed Palestinian source acquainted with relations between the authority and Hamas told AL- HAYAH that it certainly agrees, stressing that the authority welcomes and encourages the tendency to turn the movement into a political party. The Palestinian source disclosed that "a state of confusion" is prevalent in the movement's ranks as a result of the authority's successes in weakening its influence and also as a result of the what the source termed Israeli security infiltration of the movement. The

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source said that these successes were evident in the series of blows dealt to the movement in Gaza and Hebron recently, the most recent of which was the arrest of Wa'il Nassar in Shaykh Radwan district. The source said that the authority received the information concerning Nassar from the Israeli side. However, the source stressed that the dialogue between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas still exists and the two sides have actually arrived at a draft agreement between them. The source revealed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has asked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, Hamas' founder and spiritual leader whom the authority sees as a "national guarantee."

Hamas Doubts Authenticity of Call for Dialogue

MM0609080295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Hamas Spokesman Expresses Reservation About Statement Issued by the Movement Urging Dialogue With Authority]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Hamas' official spokesman has expressed reservations about the statement issued in Gaza and which was attributed to Hamas. It urged a comprehensive and serious dialogue with the Palestinian National Authority. Spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "As an official spokesman for the movement I doubt whether it was issued by the movement." He added: "We received a statement in this connection, and the movement is assessing it."

He went on to say: "The movement's position on that question has not changed, namely no dialogue with the authority as long as the torture and arrest operations continue. And for a dialogue with the authority to be initiated, it must ease the tension and release the detainees."

Ghawshah said that the authority continues to reject a comprehensive national dialogue. He recalled its obstruction of the attempt to conduct a dialogue in Sudan on 27 June.

The statement in question, which was issued in the Gaza Strip, calls for a comprehensive and serious dialogue with the Palestinian Authority under Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in a bid to unite Palestinian ranks.

The statement also demanded that Hamas members be released from the authority's jails as a goodwill gesture.

The statement said: "Hamas believes that it is necessary to immediately initiate a comprehensive national dialogue binding on all influential groups on the Palestinian scene, including the Palestinian Authority and the opposition."

The statement said that the "aim of the dialogue is to reach an understanding that would organize the nature of Palestinian national action at this sensitive stage of the Palestinian people's history."

At another level, Engineer Ghawshah commented on the visit paid to Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the movement's leader held in an Israeli jail, by Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, Fatah official in Gaza, and two Hamas members in the Strip.

'Abd-al-Raziq quoted Shaykh Yasin as saying that he agrees to a halt to the resistance against Israel. Ghawshah doubted what 'Abd- al-Raziq said by saying that he "is not a neutral party in the dispute between Hamas and the authority. Thus we express reservation about his statements. Because it is not reasonable for Shaykh Yasin to call for a halt to the jihad."

On Isma'il Haniyah's and Khalid al-Hindi's participation in the visit with 'Abd-al-Raziq, Ghawshah said that "al-Hindi's and Haniyah's visit to Shaykh Yasin was at their own initiative, not on instructions from the movement. Thus any statement made by them reflects their own view, because they are not decisionmakers in the movement."

Military Intelligence Chief Queried on Hamas

NC0509204695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 7

[Interview with Brigadier General Musa 'Arafat, chief of Military Intelligence, by Tariq Hasan in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hasan] For months you have been saying that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has shrunk, but recent events indicate that it continues to threaten the Oslo process.

[Musa 'Arafat] First, you must realize that Hamas is linked to the international Muslim Brotherhood movement. It is trying to derail the peace process with its extremist thought. This is a clear strategy by Hamas and other extremist Islamic movements in the region.

These attempts cannot stop the peace process. We in the [Palestinian] National Authority believe that there is no alternative to peace. [passage omitted] Whenever we are close to implementing the Oslo B accord, Hamas tries to abort it. I assure you that Hamas is unable to carry out its plan to stop the peace process because the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and elsewhere realize that we in the Authority are trying to restore Palestinian rights. From a practical

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point of view, Hamas' position now is much weaker than it was a year ago. Hamas has lost its legitimacy and the support of the public. It has lost the ability to move about freely because of the measures the authority has reluctantly taken in the past year. At the beginning of our presence [in the self-rule areas], we called for dialogue and political pluralism. We agreed for Hamas to be a political movement that could express its opinion freely. But we did not accept that Hamas or any other party could stop the peace process through some military operations inside Israel. This is a red line that cannot be crossed. We only accept a dialogue and their political presence. We gave them permission to carry out political activity. We gave them a license for a newspaper and allowed them to stage demonstrations, marches, and political rallies several times. We even allowed them to deliver sermons in mosques and to curse the Authority. But when they went to the extreme of trampling our affairs, we did not accept it.

What happened recently in Gaza was that Hamas planned to carry out a suicide operation in Israel before we could reach an agreement with Israel on the implementation of the second part of the Oslo accord. We arrested some culprits. Regarding what happened in Jerusalem [a suicide bus bombing], that incident was in Israel's jurisdiction. Regarding some statements that Hamas has resumed its activity and regained its strength, this is like trying to revive a slaughtered chicken. [passage omitted]

[Hasan] Hamas is accusing you of lying about incidents involving it. After calming down the situation recently, the Authority arrested some Hamas leaders. The Authority continues to hunt down fugitives who belong to Hamas' military wing. That is why Hamas says it has resumed military operations.

[Musa 'Arafat] I am not here to defend the Authority. It is known that Hamas is opposed to peace and hence it does not need reasons. I want to mention one incident initiated by the Authority. We called for political pluralism, democracy, and dialogue. But it seems that Hamas considered this is a sign of weakness. It increased its attacks on the Authority, accusing us of being agents of Rabin, the Israeli intelligence services, the Americans, and others. We do not allow anyone to use propaganda against us. We carried out armed struggle for 30 years. When we and other organizations were waging armed struggle, Hamas sang a different tune. They even accused us of atheism. We called on them to participate in the armed struggle, but they had other views. After the advent of the Authority, they believed that our dialogue with them showed weakness. The Authority was compelled to put an end to these transgressions. We do not accept haphazard accusations. We did not start harassing them; we only acted to preserve security and prevent dual leadership. We do not accept the presence of another armed force in the country. We do not accept armed militias. We can see what happened in Algeria and Lebanon as examples. It would be very dangerous to accept the presence of armed groups other than the Authority's forces. [passage omitted]

[Hasan] Why don't you put the detained Hamas leaders on trial, since they are accused by you ?

[Musa 'Arafat] Shaykh Abu-Musamih was taken to court. He is now serving a three-year jail sentence.

[Hasan] But that was before your recent arrests of Hamas activists.

[Musa 'Arafat] I believe that trials are not always a deterrence. We have our owns ways and means to control the security situation in the country. The Authority has the right to hold administrative detainees in custody. There will be no need for detention in the future if conditions become normal and the security situation improves. A stabile security situation is a requirement for the stability of our economic situation. Hamas is destroying the economy of a country that was under occupation for 27 years, during which all its infrastructure was destroyed. We want to rebuild this country. How can we do that if security is not provided? We are determined to have a good economy and security situation.

[Hasan] Is Yahya 'Ayyash, the man accused by Israel of being behind all the operations against it, in Gaza?

[Musa 'Arafat] We are investigating these reports. The whole world has heard that President 'Arafat has issued instructions in this regard.

[Hasan] Did you negotiate with 'Ayyash through his emissaries? Did you tell him that if he stops his activity, you will provide protection for him in Gaza?

[Musa 'Arafat] These are ludicrous rumors circulated by some quarters that cannot find any faults to pin on the Authority. Our stands are known. We want security and stability. We do not accept any threats to the peace process. We want to shore up the peace process and implement all its provisions for the sake of Palestinian national interests. The Israelis themselves admit this about us. The Authority's denunciations of recent and past operations, even by 'Arafat personally, are clear and do not need repeating. [passage omitted]

[Hasan] You will soon move to the West Bank. It is anticipated that you will have a security problem in view of the presence of Israeli settlements and the possibility that they will be targets of military operations.

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[Musa 'Arafat] In the West Bank I am not afraid of Hamas but the settlers. Hamas has less influence in the West Bank than in Gaza, where its main operation is. The settlers' attempt to obstruct the agreement causes apprehension. The Israeli authorities admit that they have crazy persons and warn us about them. They have asked us to understand the nature of the current phase. We understand that, but I am really afraid for the peace process due to these lunatics.

[Hasan] What will you do if the settlers attack the Palestinian police or continue their present acts when the Authority moves to the West Bank?

[Musa 'Arafat] We will try self-restraint as much as possible. But it is premature to speculate how the situation will develop.

[Hasan] There are signs that your Authority has developed a strategy toward Hamas and that it is trying to close the Hamas file in Gaza before it moves to the West Bank so that Hamas will not have a presence in the West Bank or pose a threat.

[Musa 'Arafat] You are correct. From the security point of view, we are doing some practical work in the West Bank, especially by studying Hamas' strength and contacting its leaders in the West Bank. This has resulted in better relations with the Hamas leaders in the West Bank than in Gaza. We hope that the Hamas leaders in the West Bank will be reasonable.

[Hasan] But Hamas has accused you of collaborating with Israel against it and said that you are trying to avoid dialogue with it.

[Musa 'Arafat] I do not need to defend myself. I also do need a certificate from Hamas about me and my patriotism. [as received] I have fought in the ranks of the revolution for 30 years. I am ready for martyrdom for my homeland, either by Israel or any other power. The nature of my work as a security man dictates that in matters of security there can be no compromises and no split authority. We need to act decisively on every issue that obstructs security work. Slackness means failure. I have a national responsibility, which I shoulder despite all the accusations against me. There is no coordination between me and the Israeli security services on a personal level. Our leadership knows all the bits and pieces of my activity. A daily report is submitted to this leadership, which knows well the obligations of peace. These obligations spring from national principles and responsibilities. We know of their [Hamas] connections with non-Palestinians. We know well who funds them—I mean Iran, which has no interest in the peace process.

[Hasan] Is your accusation of Iran politically motivated or do you have clear material evidence?

[Musa 'Arafat] We possess documents and other proof. We know how funds are transferred, their amounts, and who gets them. I am not kidding you. When the time comes, we will reveal everything.

Israeli Motorist Killed at Gaza Checkpoint

NC0209110295 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 2 (AFP) — Palestinian police shot and fatally wounded an Israeli motorist who refused to stop at checkpoints on the self-ruled Gaza Strip on Saturday [2 September], police said.

The man, who was not identified, died of his wounds in a Gaza City hospital, after driving through a police barrage near Bayt Lahyah, close to an Israeli army checkpoint where he also refused to stop.

Israeli border guards chased the car as far as the Palestinian zone, where the police fired warning shots before he was hit, Palestinian security officials said.

The joint Israeli-Palestinian military commission was informed of the incident near the Erez crossing from Israel into northern Gaza.

Suicide Possible Motive

TA0209141695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli, aged about 50, from central Israel was shot dead at noon today in Bayt Hanun in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the man drove his car through one IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and four Palestinian Police roadblocks. When he reached Bayt Hanun, Palestinian policemen shot at and killed him. His body was taken to a hospital in Gaza. The commander of the Palestinian Police said the dead man's wife informed them that her husband had told her this morning that he wished to commit suicide. The IDF and the Palestinian Police have launched a joint investigation into the event.

Projects Planned by Health Ministry

95AA0222b Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Jun 95 p 3

[Article by Khamis al-Turk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Radwan al-Khudari, director of the engineering and maintenance department in the Health Ministry, declared that President Yasir 'Arafat will shortly inaugurate the development projects that the national department in the Ministry has executed.

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These projects include repairing the Psychiatric Hospital. The first stage of the repairs has been terminated, and repairs scheduled for the second stage are under way. This project, which is financed by the Economic Development Organization, Bekdar, costs $120,000 and comprises four stages.

Another project is that of modernizing the birthing section in the maternity building at Dar-al-Shifa' Hospital. It is financed by Bekdar and costs $130,000. The project comprises four stages; the first of which has been terminated.

World Health organization financed development projects include a project to pull down and reconstruct al-Sawaar Medical Clinic in Gaza city, a project to repair al-Rahmah Clinic in al-Shuja'iyah district in Gaza city, one to pull down and remove al-Qararah al-Hadithah, and another to repair al-Ziwaydah Clinic. These four projects cost $360,000. Another project, which costs about $300,000, is that of installing a Picker Company teleradiology apparatus, a U.S. product, in the radiology section at Dar-al-Shifa' Hospital.

Another project is the inauguration of two premature infants intensive care units, one at Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunis and the other at al-Nasr Hospital in Gaza; the total cost of the apparatuses is about $355,000.

Eng. al-Khudari said: "The engineering and maintenance department is one of the most important services sectors in the Health Ministry as it provides services to all hospitals administered by the Ministry; these hospitals are spread all over the Gaza Strip from Rafah in the south to Bayt Hanun in the north. This important sector employs 1,090 engineers, technicians, and administrators."

Eng. al-Khudari added: "The work of the engineering and maintenance department includes the following: The department is responsible for the maintenance of buildings, installations, appliances, and medical apparatuses. It is responsible for the erection of new buildings and new extensions to the different health units. The department formulates the technical specifications for the medical apparatuses that the Health Ministry buys. It is also in charge of handling and assembling apparatuses donated by foreign countries; besides, it is in charge of training the staff who will operate these apparatuses."

The engineering and maintenance department is also represented on the different committees of the purchases administration in the Health Ministry so that it can pick the best apparatuses and appliances needed for the Ministry.

Furthermore, the department is in charge of planning, designing, executing, and supervising projects implemented by the Health Ministry.

Referring to the most important projects that have been executed by the department of engineering and maintenance, Eng. al-Khudari gave the following details:

The department has executed the maintenance needed for almost all the buildings of health units belonging to the Ministry in the Gaza Strip.

The department has prepared a lasting solution for the problems of electric elevators in Dar-al-Shifa' Hospital and is presently working on a lasting solution for the elevators in Khan Yunis Hospital.

The department also contributed to efforts to make sure that the quarantine sections of both Dar-al-Shifa' and Ophthalmology Hospitals were properly insulated during the spread of the cholera epidemic.

The department executed the sewage projects for the Ophthalmology, Psychiatric, and Khan Yunis Hospitals as well as that for the School of Nursing.

The department has executed the maternity operation rooms enlargement project in Dar-al-Shifa' Hospital.

The department has executed the addition of two dental clinics, one at al-Satr and the other at Bait Hanun Clinic, both of which are Health Ministry clinics.

The department has manufactured the best quality furniture needed for the Health Ministry in the department's workshop; therefore, saving the Ministry large sums of money.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria To Make Proposal on Early Warning Stations

TA0609092995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Sep 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syria will propose to Israel that an early warning intelligence system, which would be installed in balloons hovering at a high altitude and held to the ground by cables and which would transfer information to a ground relay and control station, be set up after the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The unmanned balloons would contain electronic sensors which would monitor military movements on the Syrian side of the border. Details of the Syrian proposal were included in reports that have reached Jerusalem over the past few weeks.

The reports say that the Syrians might agree to the balloons' being anchored on the Syrian side of the border, with the data flowing to the monitoring station on the Israeli side. As an additional early warning and monitoring measure, the Syrians are proposing that

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the United States regularly provide both sides with aerial photographs of the Golan Heights via aircraft and reconnaissance satellites. A similar arrangement currently exists within the framework of the separation of forces agreement on the Golan Heights.

The Syrian proposal to use balloons is meant to answer the Israeli demand to keep a permanent early warning system in place on the Golan after Israel withdraws, while avoiding the deployment of Israeli soldiers and technicians on Syrian soil. In the meeting between Chiefs of Staff Amnon Shahaq and Hikmat al-Shihabi two months ago, the Syrians agreed to the use of an aerial early warning system but rejected the Israeli demand to operate ground stations on the Golan. [passage omitted]

Israeli experts told HA'ARETZ that an early warning system in balloons creates many problems. They said that it will be impossible to operate the balloons in harsh weather for fear of their being cut off and the equipment lost. The IDF and various other Western armies have a great deal of experience with balloons for intelligence purposes. The IDF set up an aerial early warning system in the Negev following the peace accord with Egypt.

Israeli sources said yesterday that Israel insists on raising its demand for early warning stations on the ground in the talks with Syria. In reference to the proposal to set up a warning system using balloons, the sources said: "The officers talks, which the Syrians are boycotting, were aimed precisely at working out such issues." [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 6 September adds that during his talks in Egypt yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan was informed by his hosts "that there were no breakthroughs during talks with Hafiz al-Asad when the Syrian president was in Cairo earlier this week."]

Palestinian Negotiator: 'Major Differences Still Exist'

JN0409205095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', head of the Palestinian negotiating team, in Elat, by an unidentified correspondent in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], Good evening.

[Quray'] Good evening.

[Correspondent] What are the latest results of today's negotiations?

[Quray'] In fact, we discussed numerous pending issues. The security appendix was discussed today, but no remarkable progress was made. However, we defined the points of dispute and how to solve them tomorrow. The issues that we cannot resolve will be referred to 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister when they meet at the end of this week. [passage omitted]

However, we believe that major differences still exist and that progress toward solving them remains slow. Although we had agreed in principle on the water issue, namely, the Palestinian water rights, so that we could move to procedural issues, our demand for an increase in water allocated to various Palestinian areas during the transitional period has not yet been met. There was also no progress made on the electricity issue. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Abu-'Ala', head of the Palestinian negotiating team, what about Hebron? Rabin and Peres toured the city today. Is there anything new about it?

[Quray'] The Hebron subcommittee will meet tomorrow. Our position on Hebron is clear, and I do not believe it will be subject to any bargaining. The president told the Hebron delegation today that Hebron is a red line. These are our instructions and this is our position. Hebron is a red line and it is like any other Palestinian city. So, there should be redeployment in it, and the Palestinian forces should go there because it is like any other Palestinian city. The prisoners issue was also not decided. This also is a basic, important, and vital issue. Last week, we agreed with the Israeli police minister to have a special appendix on prisoners and detainees. We maintain a firm position on this issue because these heroes acted under our instructions. Therefore, we demand turning a new leaf by releasing the prisoners regardless of their political affiliation.

[Correspondent] The Israeli police minister and Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq [member of the Palestinian delegation] are talking about an imminent agreement this evening on the release of prisoners?

[Quray'] We talked about this issue last week, and we should meet the Israeli police minister if the Israeli delegation is not authorized to reach an agreement in this issue. I cannot say there is an agreement before we reach an agreement. We cannot claim any agreement unless it is a concrete one.

[Correspondent] Thank you Ahmad Quray', head of the Palestinian negotiating team in Elat.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

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Israeli-Palestinian Economic Talks To Resume

TA0409142495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The economic team to the talks with the Palestinians, headed by the Treasury Director General David Brodet, left for Elat to continue the negotiations on the transfer of powers on direct taxation, customs, value added tax, banking, and employment. Brodet said that progress has been made in the discussions.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, the official in charge of judicial affairs in the Palestinian Authority [PA], said that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers at the Erez junction prevented him from entering Israel this morning, and that that was why he did not turn up at the meeting he was scheduled with Justice Minister David Liba'i. The two were to have discussed several subjects, including extradition requests Israel presented to the PA.

Official army sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the soldiers prevented Abu-Middayn's driver from crossing the roadblock for security reasons. Abu-Middayn decided to return to Gaza, although he could have entered Israel.

Fatah Leader Meets Israeli Labor Official

TA0309200395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah Secretary Marwan al-Barghuthi says it is a Palestinian interest to put an end to terrorism and fight it with all the strength possible. In the first meeting held between senior Fatah leaders and [Israeli] Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili, al-Barghuthi said the peace process is a strategic aim of his organization.

Nisim Zvili said we should proceed cautiously with the process, one step at a time. He emphasized that it is important that the Palestinian Authority hand over to Israel the two fugitives who were recently tried in Jericho. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the meeting was held at the Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Israeli, Palestinian Trade Unionists Issue Statement

TA0409143195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Efrayim Davidi]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The closure and unemployment constitute obstacles on the path to peace," according to a joint statement issued over the weekend by representatives of the Histadrut and the Palestinian trade unions.

The representatives of the two sides met in Oslo for several days of discussions. It was the first official meeting between Israeli and Palestinian trade unionists since the signing of the cooperation agreement between them in March.

The Histadrut delegation is headed by Knesset Member 'Amir Peretz, chairman of the Trade Union Movement; Dr. Jacques Neriya, head of the International Relations Department; and Dov Randel, the Histadrut's liaison with the Norwegian unions. The Palestinian delegation is headed by Trade Union Chairman Shahir Sa'd, and his deputy Rasim al-Biyari.

According to the agreement between the worker's representatives, the sides should have set up groups to work out a long list of disputes, but the groups were not set up and the contacts that were supposed to have been renewed several weeks ago in Israel, have only now be resumed in Oslo. It was also agreed in Oslo that a meeting to discuss practical issues will be held in Tel Aviv's trade union hall.

The joint statement also said that the economic hardships and the grave social situation in the Palestinian self-rule areas are the main problems to be dealt with. The sides called on the Israeli Government to reduce the number of foreign workers employed here.

The Histadrut and the Palestinian unions also call for "the immediate release from detention of all Palestinian workers not convicted of criminal or security offenses."

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Algeria

Arab League Secretary General Visits for Talks

LD0509190795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Talks between 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general and Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, began in Algiers a short while ago. The talks will expand later to include the Arab League's delegation and officials from the Algerian Foreign Ministry.

The Arab League secretary general arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Mohamed Salah Dembri, the minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted].

During his visit to Algeria, Mr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will be received by the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, and will meet with Mokdad Sifi, the head of the government, and Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri.

The expected agendas include Arab reconciliation and concord on the eve of the 104th ministerial meeting of the Arab foreign ministers due to take place in Cairo on the 20th of this month.

Officials Praise First Round of Talks

LD0609002495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, arrived in Algiers today on a three-day visit to our country for talks with Algerian officials.

The first round of talks took place in-camera at the Foreign Ministry between Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and the Arab League secretary general. However, it was expanded later to include members of the two delegations.

As for the topics discussed, Mr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid told Fatiha Zerrak.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] The meeting was very constructive and comprehensive. We discussed many topics. And we agreed with Foreign Minister Dembri's assessment of the current situation and his views on how the Arab joint action, in all its aspects, should proceed. The Arab world is going to face many challenges in the next phase.

We also talked about the pan-Arab reconciliation and we agreed that it should take place in order to clear up the Arab atmosphere and bring Arabs together once more.

We welcome the invitation of the Arab League to attend the presidential elections as an observer. We think it was a constructive step taken by His Excellency Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, and by his government. And it is time that we talk about practical arrangements on how to implement the Arab League's role as an observer. I am certain that with our participation, we will contribute something, albeit small, to the process of democracy, pluralism, and legality. And the Arab League will be very proud with such a contribution as it is the first time ever that the Arab League is invited to play such a sensitive and subtle role. We will try to do our utmost to perform a job acceptable to the Arab nation. [end recording]

For his part, Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri said:

[Begin Dembri recording] As Arabs, we are proud of his visit to Algeria because he is considered to be an authoritative Arab political personality. At today's talks, we benefitted from his analyses of Arab everyday life. Of course, it was an opportunity for me to evaluate with him recent Arab experiences as we are approaching the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Arab League. And we have agreed upon a number of viewpoints on the future. However, our views might someday form a serious program of action which the Arab League might seriously consider.

As Algerians, we would like to see the Arab League in the forefront of the international organization which defends our common destiny and proves, day in and day out, its ability to represent the Arab weight. This is our hope.

As a government, we support Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's daily efforts to protect Arab solidarity. [end recording]

It is expected that Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid will hold talks with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, and with Abdelkader Bensalah, speaker of the Transitional National Council. He will also meet Arab ambassadors accredited in Algiers. The head of state, Liamine Zeroual, will receive him on Thursday.

League Observers To Monitor Elections

LD0509202795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in Algeria this afternoon on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Mohamed Salah Dembri, minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

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Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made the following statement after his arrival in the VIP lounge at Houare Boumedienne International Airport.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] Naturally, I am happy about this occasion. I am not a stranger to Algeria and the great Algerian people. I will be honored to meet President Liamine Zeroual, the prime minister, Foreign Minister Brother Mohamed Salah Dembri and other officials to discuss issues which concern the Arab nation.

Without a doubt, the timing of this visit is very appropriate for me, because there are many important matters which concern us all on which to discuss and exchange views. For example, the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council, the 104th session, which will deal with issues important to the Arab nation.

I have received a letter from President Liamine Zeroual in which he said that Algeria would welcome Arab league observers to follow up [mutaba'at] the presidential elections in November. I have welcomed this request. I will take the opportunity of my visit to discuss all the practical aspects of this important issue, which we regard as a fundamental step toward democracy and pluralism. [end recording]

Thousands Demonstrate Against 'Terrorism'

LD0509222595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 5,000 people on 5 September demonstrated in El Tarf against terrorism and in support of Liamine Zeroual, president of the state.

HAMAS' Nahnah Interviewed on Election Plans

MM0609093995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Interview with HAMAS leader Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah by Camille al-Tawil in London on 2 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tawil] Will you be nominating yourself for the elections today?

[Nahnah] Our duty toward our homeland, our nation, and Islam, whose moderation and bright picture we will try to highlight as well as our responsibilities toward the current phase and toward the line which has characterized our movement since its inception, demand that we do not to fail to participate in pluralist elections that will lead the country to the legitimacy which stems from the people's word. For this reason, the movement's Shura Council has decided to nominate a candidate for the forthcoming presidential elections.

As to how the nomination will be made, the form that participation in the presidential elections will take, and who will be the movement's candidate, these are matters which will be the subject of the press conference which the movement will organize tomorrow, Sunday [3 September], to announce the final resolutions of the National Shura Council with regard to these matters. It was for this reason that the Shura Council has extended its session, which is still continuing, to study the conditions for the nomination.

[Al-Tawil] Will you be the movement's candidate?

[Nahnah] Due to certain developments, we were forced to delay naming the candidate. We expect the matter to be settled tonight and the name of the candidate to be announced tomorrow.

[Al-Tawil] What is your program for resolving the crisis?

[Nahnah] Firstly, our program for resolving the crisis is neither exclusive nor eradicationist nor extremist. It is a program that stems from the heart of Islam and is based on the opening of dialogue with all and on all levels and will be opposed to unilateralism and will work for the widening of the basis of government, because Algeria cannot be built except through the rallying of the efforts of all sincere people in it.

Stemming from this premise, we will concentrate our work on restoring confidence between the people and the elected authority as well as between the various parties in the political arena. One of the priorities of our program also shall be providing justice to those who suffered losses as a result of the crisis and the liberation of the political action through democratic dealing with all those who believe in such a course, because we seek the establishment of a democratic Algerian state within the framework of Islamic principles.

We are committed to our three dimensions: the Islamic dimension, the national dimension and the democratic dimension. We are committed to exploiting all adequate means and methods for the sake of the creation of an Algeria that revels in peace and security.

[Al-Tawil] But how can elections be held in the state of [lack of] security through which the country is passing at present?

[Nahnah] In our view, the elections constitute an important part of the solution for the Algerian crisis. Though they cannot provide the final solution, they could constitute the start of the solution. The holding of elections under such conditions will meet with numerous difficulties, including administrative difficulties, which we

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refuse to see used to serve the interests of any one particular quarter. We have our reservations about any improvised processions or administrative harassment, because we witnessed last month some administrative and exclusive practices taken against some elements from our movement as well as from other movements.

There are also some security obstacles that might stand in the way of the electioneering campaigns as well as in the way of candidates and even in the way of the people. We hold the present authority responsible for facilitating the election process for citizens, because it is responsible for ensuring such matters and no other side can undertake to secure the holding of free and honest elections for the citizens.

We believe that if the presidential elections take place under less tense conditions, it will be easy for candidates who represent a true break from the methods, programs, experiences, and even the people who have contributed to the crisis in the homeland in one way or another, to succeed. Hence we expect the people to play a basic role in ensuring the success of the elections, because the people would be the only loser from the continuation of the current era of illegitimacy.

Though there might still probably be some unfavorable security conditions, they would not reach the extent of having a great effect leading to the cancellation of the elections or to contemplating suspending them.

[Al-Tawil] What guarantees are there for ensuring the honesty of the elections if no foreign observers are used to monitor the election process?

[Nahnah] We in the HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] believe that the international organizations would shoulder their responsibilities in such situations. We could not imagine at all that the international organizations would abandon their role of sending international observers, as they have been accustomed to do on many past occasions.

However, the Algerian elections do not derive their honesty from the international observers, because the independent joint committee provides yet another method for monitoring the honesty of elections. On the other hand, we hold the authority, which pledged to safeguard the honesty of the elections, fully responsible for safeguarding the honesty of the elections, their pluralism, and wide popular participation in them, because popular participation constitutes the true expression of the effectiveness and honesty of the elections.

Furthermore, we call upon all the political sides to bolster the honesty of these elections if not to bolster the elections themselves. This is because honesty constitutes a step toward the break with the token superficial elections that used to take place in the country.

[Al-Tawil] What would you say to those members of the National Covenant who advocate boycotting the elections?

[Nahnah] The HAMAS movement does not tie itself to other than specific constants, which are its principles and the country's supreme interest. It is not a shadow of anyone. It also refuses to act as a guardian for anyone. Every class and every political party is free to take its own stand and to make its own decisions with regard to the elections and, for that matter, any other issues. Hence, we ask everyone to take into consideration the country's interests and the people's interests, and place these interests above the interests of their parties and persons. Wherever any party sees the interests of Algeria lies, we shall salute its position as long as the justifications and reasons on which it bases its attitude are clear and sound and serve the homeland's interest.

We do not believe that there are any specific areas — particularly under the present conditions — which can be claimed to belong to this side or that side. This is because the Algerian people are suffering as a result of the raging high prices, violence, and blood. As the people were unanimous one day in rallying around independence as a demand, they are today looking for stability within the framework of political plurality as an objective. Whoever enjoys the support of a wide section of the people will not fear the ballot box, and can through it realize Algeria's interests. This is because we believe that many sides are calling for a boycott because they do not want to break with the past and yearn for a new-old era.

[Al-Tawil] What initiative will you take with regard to the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] should you be elected president?

[Nahnah] God orders us to be just and to do good. Within the framework of this Koranic verse, we can deal with the FIS and others. This is because justice means the lifting of injustice, the establishment of freedoms, giving to every one his dues, and stopping every side or person from exceeding his limits. Doing good is the soul of national reconciliation, which we consider one of the aims of our nomination for the presidency. We seek the establishment of peaceful coexistence within the framework of freedom for all within the bounds of our constants on the one hand and moderation in applying the law, without resorting to despotism in the exercise of rights.

[Al-Tawil] Will you be coordinating with other Islamic parties with regard to nomination for the elections?

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[Nahnah] Coordination steps were taken within the Islamic framework with some leaders of the Islamic parties and on the level of the Shura Council with some parties. Some of our brothers have had meetings on the level of leaders of the FIS, those of them who have been released [from prison] inside the country and those of them who are abroad. There are also contacts with some bases of the FIS on the level of the provincial bureaus and on the level of the Shura Council of our movement.

All these contacts are based on the premise that the Islamists cannot cast their votes in favor of anybody other than those who support the Islamic plan, let alone those who tried to remove the Islamic plan from the popular arena and then tried to remove it from the political arena.

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS0509145395 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 3 Sep 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial: A dog is a dog!

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "If it had been Our Will, We should have elevated him with Our Signs, but he inclined to the earth and followed his own vain desires, his similitude is that of a dog, if you attack him, he lolls out his tongue, or if you leave him alone he lolls out his tongue. That is the similitude of those who reject our signs; so relate the story, perchance they may reflect." (Koran, Surat Al A'raf, 7:176)

If one sees a video tape where a popular meeting of the Libyan Colonel Qadhdhafi is shown, one will see not only the schizophrenic speech of the "great leader" but also many officials in the first row facing the people and giving their back to the colonel. These officials do not wear distinctive uniforms but will look as a part of the crowd, usually carried on the shoulder of colleagues, and chanting and conducting the leader glorification slogan which should have an inducing effect on the people present in the meeting. Then the people will follow and praise the leader and if someone felt that no leader glorification feeling was induced in him then he must start to think about himself as traitor or abnormal!

The above practice is unfortunately not typical to Libya but illustrates the fact that in every dictatorial regime and particularly in those at the head of muslims countries, it is not only the dictator who is guilty but also those whose mission is to misguide the people by covering ugliness with beauty and wrong with right. Some say that even a dictator is after the good of the country and people in his own (destructive) way but all agree that those who help his blindness and purposely fool the people, are all after their own privileges! So who is more guilty than the other?

When the military men in Algeria decided in January 1992 to throw the free choice of the Algerian people in the bine, [as received] they just had to "whistle from the window" to have instantly, a gang of "Beni Oui Oui" (Algerian expression equivalent to "Yes-men"), "queuing in front of the junta's door" in order to secure a seat in the "parliament" set up by the military to replace the one they just had toppled! Some of these Junta appointed "members of the parliament" have been rejected by the Algerian people just few weeks before in the elections of December 1991 and this did not trigger in them any kind of decency and decided to seat in that "chair" even if the Algerian people did not like it.

After three and half years of armed confrontation and ten of thousands of people dead, this made up "parliament" had the "nerve" to legislate and amend on legal matter such as the electoral law!

Given the unconstitutional nature of the junta "parliament", all the legislative changes are by principle void and so is the junta so called "presidential elections"! This is, if one assumes that the written law in Algerian still mean something!

The Junta valets did not stop to seat in their profitable chairs and applaud at the General Zeroual speeches, they have taken part in many campaign inside and outside Algeria to uplift the Junta image and to mask its illegitimacy. This is by all means a crime against the Algerian people!

Now and after the announcement of the Junta elections, the Junta "artificial parliament" is strongly supporting the isolated junta initiative by providing support and even candidates no matter how unknown to the people they may be . The real opposition which "weights" more than 80 percent of the Algerian votes is boycotting the "election show", so why and for what the Junta valets are supporting it?

Algeria is back to a political bipolarisation which has on one side the military and on the other the Algerian people and their legitimate representatives, and in between the two poles... nothing of substance, really!

Now that the cut is clear, let each one takes his/her place before history!

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The representative political opposition appeals for the "elections" boycott!

The Algerian opposition parties members of the "national contract" have make an appeal to the Algerian people in which they call for a boycott of the Junta "presidential elections"! These parties represent more than 80 percent of the electoral "weight".

The eight parties in a communique issue on Monday said that such elections will "plebiscites the actual regime" and will "prolong the crisis". The parties continue to solicit a "global political solution" .They have launched an appeal to boycott the "elections" and have asked their followers not to give their signatures to candidates who should, according to the Junta new rules, collect 75,000 signatures before being eligible to candidacy.

The opposition parties have also warn the international organisations which may accept to take part in the process as observers, that they will be accomplices of the regime. The vote under these conditions will constitute " an aggravating factor for the crisis and will plunge the country into more deadlocks, more bloodshed and more deterioration of the situation".

What Shaykh Ali Belhadj has REALLY said!

About the Junta elections:

"Is it wanted by these elections to replace a legitimacy with another legitimacy in order to extinguish the first legitimacy in the name of the second and will put us in a circle of legitimacy reincarnation as the reincarnation of souls of the Hindus?" (letter to General Zeroual,08/11/94)

About the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]:

"The FIS work to concretise its objective using peaceful means and through elections and has declared that it will stick to peaceful political activities on the condition that the regime do the same.

The FIS is a front of revindication and persuasion, and a front of moderation and centre path in the Islamic sense not in the servile and undignified defeatist sense. The FIS is also a front of Jihad if its legitimate prerequisites are met in terms of adversary and oppression. The FIS does not take arms just for the sake of shedding blood but to counter the adversary and oppression against the weak of men ,women and children." ("The disclosure of political prejudice concerning the"presidential" and the removal of other alternatives" (Al Kashf anial khilafat as- siyasiya li-riassiyat wa iksa gayriha mine al badaiil), Ali Belhadj, House arrest, 27/01/95).

Jihad and Mujahidin News

"We don't like to " beat around the bush ", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to grab the right of the people to freely choose." (Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah Ali Belhadj in " Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers "). page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992)

The second battle of Algeirs!

The Casbah is always under the control of the Mujahidin!

Casbah: The Casbah Al Mujaheda is still standing defying the Junta oppressor. Despite its encirclement by three Junta army detachments, not a single Mujahid was located. The Junta troops have however arrested in the vicinity many youngsters because they have refused to do the Junta military service. As soon as the Junta troops left, the Mujahidin were back. The chief (Amir) of the Mujahidin, brother Azzeddine went out to the people and told them that the Will of Allah is much stronger than the Junta mischiefs. And to prove that the force of the "Merciful's soldiers" (Junud Ar- Rahman) is always active, the Mujahidin have attacked last Sunday (27/08/95) a Junta convoy from the Junta "special force". The crossfire lasted more then three hours. More then twelve Junta soldiers were killed and two Mujahidin have won Martyrdom (Insha Allah).

Raghaia: The Mujahidin have set up an ambush to a Junta gendarme convoy. Four Junta gendarmes were shot dead amongst them an officer having the rank of lieutenant. Two Klashinkoves and a Makarof automatic pistol were collected as well as a telecommunication system. The Mujahidin set fire to the Junta vehicle of land Rover make. In retaliation, the Junta troops have invaded many homes nearby and took many youngsters to unknown places. Their parents do not have any news for almost a week now.

Bir Mourad Rais: The Mujahidin have shot dead a Junta armed militia and collected his weapon.

Bouzereah: The Mujahidin have shot dead a Junta secret police inspector and collected his weapon and documents.

El Harrach: The Mujahidin have executed three operations this week in which they have shot dead four Junta personnel. Two were from the Junta police, one from

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the Junta gendarme and the fourth from the Junta armed militia. Three automatic pistols were collected.

Azghara: The Mujahidin have executed a Junta collaborator.

Soumaa: The Mujahidin have attacked a Junta police convoy using explosive. The outcome of the operation is not yet known.

Bachdjarah: The Mujahidin have attacked a Junta "special force" vehicle. They have shot dead two of the "Linda" (as called by the Mujahidin instead of "Ninja") but the driver managed to drive off toward the newly open centre of torture in Bachdjarah.

Bab El Oued: The Mujahidin have shot dead a Junta inspector and collected his automatic pistol of Berretta make.

Egypt

Israel's Dayan Comments After Meeting Musa

TA0509165195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt is continuing to insist that Israel investigate the affair of the murdered Egyptian POW's. This was apparent at the close of the meetings Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan held with Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz in Cairo.

In response to a question from our correspondent Arye Gus, the Egyptian deputy foreign minister for Middle East affairs said that this is a sensitive issue that no country can deal with lightly. Our correspondent adds that, in his meetings, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan received the impression that the Egyptians understand that according to Israeli law the murderers cannot be put on trial.

Dayan also felt that the attacks and accusations leveled at Israelis Ambassador to Cairo David Sultan by the Egyptian media were exaggerated and might cause a risk to the ambassador's life. The Egyptians said they would deal with the issue in an appropriate manner, and Deputy Minister Dayan said he hoped the treatment would be public and open.

Dayan on POW Issue, Departs

NC0609081295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan and his delegation left Cairo tonight after a one-day visit.

Before leaving, Dayan emphasized Egypt's important role in the peace process and voiced appreciation for President Mubarak's efforts in this connection.

Dayan said he met Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and discussed with them the Egyptian POW's issue.

Noting that he and the two Egyptian officials exchanged views on this issue, Dayan remarked: We are speaking of events that occurred 30 years ago in war circumstances. They were individual acts, not the policy of the State or army. We condemn them and express our sorrow. Such acts are not in line with our principles.

Dayan said that Musa and Dr. al-Baz urged Israel to continue its investigation and inform Egypt of the results. He explained that Israel will consider every proposal to remedy the issue in a way that will satisfy not only the Egyptian Government, but also the people. He said he fears the investigation will lead to complications that people could well do without, adding: Our objective is to look forward, not back to the past. But this is a problem that must be solved.

Elsewhere, the Israeli deputy foreign minister said he held talks with several officials on agricultural issues and ways of continuing and strengthening bilateral cooperation. He remarked that the Egyptian Government is optimistic about peace and that all the obstacles will be surmounted.

Musa Comments on Need To Investigate POW's

NC0509174695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Following his meeting with the Israeli deputy foreign minister today, 'Amr Musa stated that the Egyptian position on the POW issue is very clear and that it stresses that an investigation must be launched immediately into this serious matter, particularly since there is a clear confession that a group of Egyptian POW's was killed.

He said that all contacts stress the need for an immediate official investigation and that Israel must supply Egypt with all the details on what happened at that time.

Musa said that he conveyed the Egyptian position to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as well as to his deputy at today's meeting. He affirmed that Egypt will follow up on the issue with Israel.

Dr. al-Baz stated that international law provides special protection for POW's; this makes crimes against them

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an issue not subject to the statute of limitations. He said that by demanding an investigation into the issue, Egypt is not seeking to defame Israel or anyone else. All it wants is to find the truth with an urgent and impartial investigation by which it can learn what happened and then look for ways to handle the situation, he said.

Dr. al-Baz added that the Egyptian Government's demand for an investigation precedes from its responsibility to safeguard the lives of every Egyptian in any situation, particularly during wars, regardless of the passage of many years.

Al-Baz remarked that what concerns Egypt is to find out exactly what happened due to its interest in protecting the rights and lives of Egyptians and in making sure that this will not happen again, even if there are no more wars, so that Egyptian lives can be protected everywhere. He reiterated that President Mubarak pays considerable attention to the protection of Egyptians, which is very vital.

Al-Baz asked the Israeli leadership to understand the importance of this point—protecting Egyptians abroad—to the Egyptian public.

Mubarak Chairs Meetings on Sudan, Economy

NC0509161595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials today. He reviewed important strategies, policies pertaining to foreign policy and Egypt's international political and economic relations, as well as our relations with neighboring states, primarily with Sudan.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who said that the president held two important meetings, which were also attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The first was a three-hour expanded meeting that focused on economic issues, primarily developing a common vision on the production and export process. The second meeting was limited to senior officials; it lasted nearly an hour and discussed strategic issues.

Al-Sharif said that during the second meeting the president heard a report by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on his visit to Addis Ababa, his meeting with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, and the message President Mubarak sent to the Ethiopian official.

He added that the report included the findings of the Ethiopian investigations into the June attack on President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa and the recent Ethiopian statement in this regard. [passage omitted]

Safwat al-Sharif said that in light of the discussion and the reports submitted during the first meeting, President Mubarak issued a number of directives to the government, including the need to set up a higher export council under the president's chairmanship. The council's job would be to draw up policies for developing exports and removing the obstacles hindering the export process, in addition to the policies for upgrading production in various sectors.

The president emphasized in this context that production is the main foundation for boosting exports. He also underlined the need to establish a close link between production and exports. [passage omitted]

Musa Views Iraq, Peace Process, Bosnia

MB0309130695 Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR in English 2 Sep 95 p 4

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by correspondent Maureen Isaacson in Pretoria on 31 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] So Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has offered asylum to Saddam Husayn (should he require it) "...as a political figure to have refuge in Egypt". This is confirmed by [Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr] Musa. He does this some time after his arrival at the State Guest House, which is now crawling with mean-looking men talking on cellphones. "We think," says Musa, "this is the best way to put a peaceful end to the suffering of the people in Iraq." [passage omitted]

Back to the Husayns. Musa's trip to Jordan earlier this week did not, as some expected, yield invitations to Husayn Kamil, son-in-law of Saddam Husayn and defector from his party. "We are all trying to work towards consolidation and the negotiation of a peace process..." he says. "At the same time, the region cannot sustain any major setback or crack in relations because of Iraq." In his suite at the guest house the speed with which he tears through our 15 minutes together is unnerving. Minister Musa watches his watch as bodyguards inside and outside the room watch us. Disciplined incisive, he races calmly against time and towards his meeting with [Foreign] Minister [Alfred] Nzo.

The two men have met before in Cairo and even Northwest Premier Popo Molefe has been to the home of Cleopatra, but this visit to our country, says Musa, is long overdue. "We have come from Cairo to Pretoria, from the northern tip to the southern tip, to create

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bridges of understanding and prospects." [passage omitted]

Busting a gut trying to make the peace and keep it seems to take up most of Musa's time. When he isn't charging off calling for peace in the Middle East and stressing the importance of Palestinian determination, he's bringing hope to all. Now he is saying the Palestinian-Israeli talks will continue and an agreement will be reached.

Egypt, he says, is calling for investigations into the violation of the Geneva Convention on POWs by Israeli officers. "The officer who committed the crime has made the admission — he has to be brought to trial in accordance with the statutory law. We are waiting. A crime has been committed. The perpetrator should be tried." Evidently this foreign minister earns his keep. In France he recently met his French counterpart Minister Herve de Charette and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. "Aggression against the Bosnian president by the Serbs crossed all limits," he says. "The people of Bosnia are entitled to self-defence. We are glad about the step NATO has taken — it will spare us a great deal of trouble."

Bosnia is the wound that sears Musa's heart. A question about his country's position on human rights, an attempt to discover whether there is, or was ever any truth in stories about torture and detention without charge gets him heated. "In Egypt this does not exist. I believe human rights have been violated by ethnic cleansing in Bosnia perpetrated by Serbs. It has gone unpunished. The double standard doesn't work. Until we know the thoughts vis-a-vis human rights that involves a holocaust of the people of Herzegovina, the question of human rights is unacceptable." Ask the minister if there is any truth in the common lore which would have it that Egypt is "more Islamic than Islam" itself and he will say: "If the government of Egypt is following the Islamic laws it is not an accusation, but the laws are bound in Islamic Shar'iah law and international law." [passage omitted]

He nods again emphatically — when I ask if security has been stepped up since President Mubarak's recent close shave with fundamentalist assassins. But he stops me in my tracks: "I want you to know the difference between fundamentalism and terrorism. With freedom of thought we have accepted the role of fundamentalism in society, but terrorism we cannot accept. However, there are indications that the wave of terrorism has been deflated." [passage omitted]

And although he expresses a desire that Egypt's 2-million tourists should multiply into 10-million as soon as possible, he is quick to admit that "everything is not perfect" back home. Here he rates unemployment at about 10 percent. With a population of 60-million and a history of three successive wars over the past few decades, no wonder the economy is down. But, he says, satellite cities are being built and the slums where the infrastructure has long since eroded are being dealt with, one by one. [passage omitted]

Mrs. Mubarak Delivers Speech to Women's Conference

NC0609070595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Suzanne Mubarak, the president's wife and head of the Egyptian delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, has delivered a speech to the meeting. She pointed out that Egypt has chosen the path of peace as an ideal way toward security and prosperity without which there can be no economic development or equality. She said that Egypt has also chosen the path of democracy, thus allowing freedom to flourish.

Mrs. Mubarak said liberalization should not mean rebellion against religions and noble values; it must be an act of freeing oneself from the trends of deviancy and all that promotes defiance of religious teachings and heavenly values.

She explained that Egypt respects the rule of law and adheres to the Constitution, which states that Islam is the State's religion and guarantees women's rights and status.

Mrs. Mubarak said Egypt has chosen the path of economic reform, which has had some adverse effects on women, including unemployment and higher prices. She noted that the government has remedied this by doubling the number of projects to encourage small businesses. She added that the State doubled the education budget with particular emphasis on teaching women.

Mrs. Mubarak remarked that the Egyptian woman has always had financial independence and enjoyed the right to engage in commercial transactions and received equal pay for equal work. She noted that the Egyptian woman enjoys the constitutional, legal, and practical right to assume leadership posts and participate in political life and in numerous social and cultural services. She exercises the same rights in seeking to improve the conditions of women in rural and slum areas, to maintain procreational health, and help women who support families.

She announced: We are living in a world that often does not match its deeds to its words. It speaks of giving women the right to self-determination but denies the same right to entire nations and their men, women,

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old people, and children. The world calls for peace but amasses arsenals sufficient to destroy the planet 20 times over. One fourth of the money spent on these weapons is enough to solve educational, water, health, and other problems.

She added: The world calls for an end to violence against women yet does not firmly oppose the terrorization, murder, rape, and debasement of women for the sake of an abominable ethnic conflict. We give aid to developing countries and allot part of it to women's programs. This is good but to get this aid and additional loans and grants developing countries are required to make economic reforms and structural alterations that have some negative side effects. Although these negative side effects are temporary, they are burdensome to women and families.

Mrs. Mubarak concluded by saying: I believe there is good in this despite some negative aspects and that there is a desire to serve, cooperate, and firmly confront existing problems. Our meeting in Beijing today is proof of this spirit. I hope we will meet again in better circumstances. They will be better if the second half of the human race enjoys equality and justice to contribute to greater peace and economic development.

Group Trying To Revive al-Jihad Organization Seized

NC0609072895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—The State Security detectives have seized a group of terrorists trying to revive the terrorist al-Jihad Organization in Shubra al-Khaymah in the al-Qalyubiyah Governorate near Cairo. In today's edition AL-AHRAM reported that the State Security detectives revealed that by reviving the terrorist organization, the group, which includes 15 members, intended to assassinate personnel guarding banks, churches, and movie theaters. Thirteen members have been apprehended, including the leader. The paper says that weapons and explosives, which the terrorists prepared for their operations, were seized.

Group leader 'Afifi Mustafa Ibrahim admitted to the State Security Prosecution Office that he embraces the al-Jihad ideology and that he formed the new cell as part of a plan to establish an Islamic caliphate rule. He said he sought to attract individuals from various professions, especially blacksmiths and fetters, to help him in making explosives by mixing gunpowder with pebbles and nails. He admitted forming a group that included a consultative council of the cell. He assigned members the task of defining the goals of the current stage and of converting individuals who believe in this ideology. He began issuing assignments and monitoring several targets in Shubra al-Khaymah, including banks, churches, movie theaters, and a sentry arms depot in a village. They planned to assassinate the sentries and other guards to steal their arms for use in their crimes. They also monitored the movement of personnel they planned to assassinate.

Public attorney counselor Hisham Saraya ordered the detention of the defendants for 15 days pending interrogation. He ordered that the weapons, explosives, and ammunition be sent to the criminal laboratory for checks.

Brotherhood Leader Discusses Election Plans

MM0509145195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Sep 95 p 7

[Interview with Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the MB, by Muhammad Salah in Cairo on 3 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salah] Does the fact that a group of Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members have been referred to military courts represent the peak of the government's escalation against the MB?

[Abu-al-Nasr] That group spent over eight months in detention. In other words they fulfilled the requirements under the emergency law and the terrorism law about the length of precautionary imprisonment and detention. It is, therefore, clear that there is nothing to justify further detention or imprisonment, and nothing to prevent them from becoming candidates in the elections or participating in the elections. The government has resorted to military courts when it had no right to do so under normal law. They continue to be held in detention and are prevented from participating in the elections or running as candidates.

[Salah] Do you expect the recent measures to drive the MB youth to violence?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We adhere strictly to legal and constitutional methods and completely refrain from violence.

[Salah] The elections are imminent and the opposition parties and forces are making preparations. In the MB's view, what should the government do to reassure the MB that the elections are genuine?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The opposition parties and political forces have submitted demands to the president of the Republic and the ministry calling for the promulgation of legislation and the introduction of regulations that would guarantee honesty of the elections. Our demands included: Verification of the identity of male and female voters by means of a document that would

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carry the voter's name and photograph in addition to the voter's signature or fingerprint taken in front of the committee chairman. Every ballot committee should be supervised by an judiciary official. The media should be used equitably. Police stations should not be used as headquarters for the election committees. The governors and mayors, who are all members of the National [Democratic] Party [NDP], should not interfere in the election process. The emergency law, which prohibits public gatherings and movement, does not allow contact with the electorate nor the publication of bulletins, and is used for the detention of supporters as well as candidates, should be abolished or suspended. As regards the MB, the authorities began, as of last January, to throw considerable numbers of its leaders into prison on the grounds of mostly fabricated and false claims, all very old claims which do not warrant precautionary detention.

[Salah] The political parties and forces have begun presenting their election programs through their own publications. What is the MB's program?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Over the past two years we have issued important statements, including our position on the political system, partisan pluralism, parliamentary life, women and their position in society as well as their political and social rights, and the question of their assumption of public posts and participation in the elections as voters and candidates. We explained our relationship with our Coptic citizens and the international community. As is known, the Islamic shari'ah, whose implementation we advocate, has basic social and economic rules such as alms, equality, prohibition of usury and gambling, confirmation of work and rights of workers. The MB has published many social, economic, and political books. We issued an election program in 1987 and are now about to issue another.

[Salah] Those opposed to the MB claim that your program does not tackle all society's problems including economic problems.

[Abu-al-Nasr] We believe that the most important cause of our political, social, and economic problems stems from the fact that we do not comprehensively operate in accordance with the provisions of our religion. Almighty God did not send us the Prophet in vain, and he gave us the shari'ah to reform us. Those opposed to us tend to divert people's attention from that principle of faith and the need to go back to the law of God and His Prophet. "And let God be the judge of matters on which you disagree."

We want to instill that principle in people's minds and consciences. We do not neglect society's needs. The human mind, education, expertise, and science play a major part particularly in matters of performance and organization of what is allowed. There is vast and important room for that.

[Salah] Does the MB have a concept for ending the mutual violence between the police and the religious groups? How do you assess the situation in upper Egypt, and what are your views on such matters as tackling the problems of violence, poverty, and backwardness there?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We have from the very beginning called for a comprehensive solution covering the causes of violence that would include establishment of liberties, respect for human rights and dignity, social and economic reforms, combating material and moral corruption, and serious steps by the government toward ethical reform and respect for religious sentiments. That is what many intellectuals, politicians, and writers have called for but, most regrettably, the authorities have insisted on a security confrontation, allowing that to go too far, meeting violence with violence and with repeated official killing on mere suspicion. The problem became complicated and more serious. But we still believe that there is a need for serious political, social, and economic reform measures. There must be justice and fair play and doors should be opened for objective dialogue in suitable circumstances.

[Salah] Much has been said about the national accord document and the differences between opposition forces over signing it. What really happened?

[Abu-al-Nasr] There are attempts to find a common denominator for the effective political parties and forces in Egypt. The dialogue is still going on because of the difficulty of reaching agreement due to the different ideologies, views, and programs.

[Salah] The elections will be held on the basis of the single electoral system. How do you envisage the election battle on that basis?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We request guarantees for sound elections including neutrality of the government and its institutions. If that is achieved to a reasonable degree the elections would be a significant starting point toward a new era.

[Salah] What results could coordination between the opposition parties produce when facing the NDP?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I do not believe that there is a possibility of coordination among all the opposition parties. Some of them have announced their rejection of that idea.

[Salah] What is the fate of the alliance with the Labor Party in the light of the single electoral system?

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[Abu-al-Nasr] That alliance does exist and we are proud of it and of the Labor Party.

[Salah] If the detention of the MB leaders arrested over the past period continues until the date of the election, would they still declare themselves candidates and could that result in their victory, or does their being behind bars constitute an obstacle in the way of their becoming members of parliament?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I believe that the majority will insist on running for election. That is their legal and constitutional right. Of course, it is better for a candidate to be free not behind bars.

[Salah] An opposition paper has reported that the MB aims to win one third of the parliamentary seats. Is that true?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The greatest victory for all would be to have free and honest elections reflecting the will of the people.

[Salah] How will the MB candidates finance their election campaign?

[Abu-al-Nasr] From their own pockets and resources.

[Salah] There has been some talk about some election deals. Would the MB agree to leave some constituencies and not to have candidates running there against the ruling NDP candidates in return for a government undertaking not to hamper the MB candidates in other constituencies?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Such deals are suspect and we do not accept them.

[Salah] The government is hinting that the opposition, including the MB, would have preferred the list system because that would have enabled it to ensure a larger number of victorious candidates in the elections.

[Abu-al-Nasr] The most important thing is to ensure the freedom and honesty of the election. Preferences among electoral systems come after that.

[Salah] The government is also hinting that the MB is planning to exploit the potential of the unions aligned with it in securing a majority in the elections.

[Abu-al-Nasr] That is out of the question.

[Salah] Do you regret the fact that the MB did not participate in the 1990 elections?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Not at all. Every decision has its own circumstances.

[Salah] Some officials, headed by President Husni Mubarak, sent cables of condolences over the death of MB figure Dr. Sa'id Ramadan. Did you see that as a good initiative, and do you expect other government initiatives in the direction of the MB and the Islamic tendency?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Courtesy is good and deserves thanks, but it has no political significance.

[Salah] People opposed to you claim that the MB would retreat from democracy once it has secured power. What is your response to that?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Holy Koran states clearly that the Islamic society is based on shura [consultation], not despotism. So how could we abandon democracy? These are charges meant to undermine and defame.

[Salah] Relations with the Copts are preoccupying many people, so much so that a number of opposition parties are now jockeying for their votes. Can you envisage cooperation between the MB and the Copts in the elections?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Our relations with the Copts have been and still are good. In the past 70 years, since the birth of the MB, there has not been a single incident to spoil these relations. Imam Hasan al-Banna had Coptic advisers, and some Copts have made a point of attending MB functions. When the imam was banished to Qina some priests there sent memorandums to the government doing him justice.

[Salah] Would you approve of the idea of the Copts forming their own political party?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The most important aim of a political party is to reach power and government on the basis of a program. Do you think that the Copts, who constitute about 5 percent of the Egyptian population, want that? Such claims have appeared recently with the aim of discrediting the MB. The facts disprove these claims. In the days of the freedom to form parties, the Copts did not consider forming a party in the forties when the MB spread throughout Egypt. But we would welcome a party for the Copts if they so wished.

[Salah] In a recent interview published by AL-HAYAH, Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi said that there was a link between the MB and some terrorist elements and that it was the public prosecutor's office which decided to jail those of them who have been jailed, in accordance with the law.

[Abu-al-Nasr] We emphasize that this is a false charge. There is nothing in the interrogation of those arrested to support the charge of a link with any terrorist element. The only charge was that they were MB members.

[Salah] The interior minister also stressed that there is a link between the MB in Egypt and Hasan al-Turabi's organization in Sudan.

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[Abu-al-Nasr] There is no organizational link between the MB and Dr. al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front in Sudan. There is no coordination at all between us. In the interrogation with those arrested there was no mention of any such thing at all. I repeat that the only charge made against them was that they were MB members.

Mahmud Views Increase in Foreign Currency Revenues

NC0309082295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0510 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Economy Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud has stated that Egypt's foreign currency revenues increased by 22.7 percent in the first nine months of the fiscal year 1994/95 compared to the same period of the preceding fiscal year.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, Minister Mahmud noted that between July 1994 and March 1995 foreign currency revenues amounted to $14.324 billion as compared to $11.673 billion in 1993/94. This includes revenues from commodity exports, Suez Canal transit tolls, tourism, remittances from Egyptians working abroad, and other service fees.

According to the Central Bank figures, Egypt's commodity exports increased from $2.484 billion during July 1993-March 1994 to $3.731 billion during the same period of fiscal 1994/95, a 50.2-percent increase. Revenues from Suez Canal tolls increased by 6.6 percent during the same period, from $1.464 billion to $1.561 billion. Earnings in foreign currencies from tourism during the same period increased from $1.419 billion to $1.726 billion.

Minister Mahmud added that remittances by Egyptians abroad increased by 7.6 percent during the same period from $2.294 billion to $2.468 billion. Revenues from petroleum exports, both in crude oil and in other petroleum products, have noticeably increased. Revenues from crude oil exports reached $1.149 billion in 1994/95, compared to $909 million in 1993/94, a 26.4-percent increase. Exports from petroleum products increased by 33.7 percent from $957 million in 1993/94 to $1.280 billion in 1994/95.

The economy minister added that tourism figures show a noticeable increase, both in the number of tourists and the nights they spent in Egypt. According to the Tourism Ministry figures, the number of tourists increased from 2.36 million tourists in 1993/94 to 2.83 million in 1994/95. They spent 17.68 million nights in 1994/95 as compared to 13.69 million nights in 1993/94.

Minister Mahmud emphasized that the economic reforms introduced by the government have had an obvious role in the increase in foreign currency revenues in various fields of activity, thanks to the stable government policies and the elimination of all obstacles facing people dealing with various economic sectors.

Journalists Hold Congress, Discuss Press Freedom

NC0509153095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—The Third General Congress of Journalists opened in the conference hall of the National Democratic Party headquarters in Cairo this morning under the slogan "For New Legislation for Freedom of the Press in Egypt."

The opening session was attended by Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the Press Association and of the congress, and over 1,000 members of the Press Association's General Assembly and Council.

At the beginning of the session, journalists observed a moment of silence in mourning for the souls of martyred journalists in Egypt and the whole Arab world.

In his opening speech, Ibrahim Nafi' emphasized the major goal for which the congress is being held, namely, to defend freedom of opinion and speech, as well as the freedom of the press.

He also reiterated everybody's willingness to make sacrifices to defend the right of thinkers and politicians to express their views and beliefs, a right provided in the national principles on freedom of opinion, expression, belief, and writing. He said that freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of the press and their constant contribution to the homeland is certainly a winning cause as long as we continue to be loyal and sincere to the cause no matter how long it takes.

The chairman of the Press Association expressed his firm belief that new comprehensive legislation on the press will advance us one step on the course to the triumph of the values of freedom. He remarked that ways of achieving that could be discussed before or after such a step is taken. We need to develop a profound understanding of all the issues that positively or negatively affect national accord on securing freedom of the press through the new legislation, Ibrahim Nafi' said. He pointed out that negotiating on that legislation should not be interpreted as a militant confrontation in which one party puts pressure on another in order to break his will or as a case of victory or defeat. He added: Clear as it is, this issue still involves complexities and thorny issues that cannot be surmounted easily or without the necessary calculations. Otherwise we would

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be going beyond the limits of truth and freedom or deviating from the truth and the right course.

Ibrahim Nafi' pointed out a number of guarantees for the Egyptian press and journalists. They are:

1. It is absolutely impermissible and conflicts with the meaning of freedom to hold a journalist in preventive or permanent custody just because he performed his professional duty as dictated by his conscience and beliefs. A clear distinction should be made between crimes that merit being taken into custody and a criminal or civil responsibility entailed by the publication of views, beliefs, thoughts, or other forms of journalism and writing.

2. Guaranteeing plurality of views and expression is the responsibility of the legislator. However, a considerable share of this responsibility is related to the duty of the state. It is necessary to guarantee pluralism by granting the freedom to publish newspapers and even encouraging new newspapers whenever the risk of a monopoly looms on the horizon. By the same token, freedom of the press should entail not only the freedom of journalists, but also the publishers' freedom to formulate and apply their own editorial and professional policies without excessive interference by the state, parties, or other newspaper owners.

3. We journalists voluntarily and collectively abide by certain commitments that derive from loyalty to the homeland, from the prerequisites of fairness, and from respect for human rights and the rights of a citizen. These commitments are stated in the journalists charter of honor and the Press Association's law. The mechanisms governing serious, honorable, and voluntary commitment should be enhanced.

Nafi' pointed out that solidifying these mechanisms precludes the need to expand criminal procedures or expand punishments. This is because a sound philosophy of punishment is not to take revenge on wrongdoers who make mistakes, but to teach, train, sow ideals, and rectify and correct the miscreant's attitudes. We also have to insist that the punishment meted out by the courts should be used at a later stage as a means of defending rights and freedoms which certain individuals might violate.

The successive meetings President Mubarak chaired today—which lasted over 4 hours—prevented Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif from attending the opening session of the Third General Congress of Journalists today.

Sudan

Official: Syria, Lebanon Support Hala'ib Stand

EA0609105595 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1800 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chairman of the external relations committee of the Transitional National Assembly, Professor [Muhammad Shakir] al-Sarraj, said that Sudan's stance regarding [the] Hala'ib issue has received support from the public opinion and political and executive leaderships in Syria and Lebanon.

Professor Sarraj pointed out that his recent visits to Syria and Lebanon were aimed at explaining Sudan's stance concerning [the] escalation of the Egyptian regime's provocations and hostilities at Hala'ib area by the Egyptian regime. [sentence as received] He underlined that Sudan's attitude is not to respond to the Egyptian regime's provocations on the ground that Sudan is keen to the purification of the Arab climate and boosting Arab solidarity.

Professor Sarraj (?stated) that Sudan considers border conflicts as a creation of colonialism, affirming that Sudan is in support of Arab unity, security and development.

Committee To Probe Mubarak Assassination Attempt

EA0509170495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has reiterated its firm stance, condemning the recent attempt to assassinate the Egyptian president and stressing its adherence to the agreement on exchanging criminals signed by Sudan and Ethiopia and its response to the Ethiopian request to conduct an investigation.

Ambassador Jalal al-Din Atabani, director of bilateral relations at the Foreign Ministry, said at the ministry's regular meeting today that the government had formed a high-level committee embracing all the relevant organs to investigate the matter. He said that, according to the Egyptian authorities, the investigation had indicated that one of the three suspects had entered the country carrying two forged passports, one Sudanese and the other Ethiopian. He stressed that the individual had not been traced, nor was there any evidence that the other two had entered Sudan.

His excellency, the ambassador, reiterated Sudan's adherence and commitment to dealing with the crisis, while safeguarding the interests of the two countries and the region.

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His excellency, the ambassador, said Sudan had decided not to close down the Ethiopian consulates at Al-Qadarif and Al-Damazin [in eastern Sudan], which the Ethiopian authorities were insisting should be closed. He said: Our embassy will reduce the scope of its diplomatic representation to a staff of four including the ambassador.

Referring to the incident in which Dr. Abdullah al-Ja'li and Muhammad al-Fatih, the two Sudanese working with an international relief organization in Addis Ababa, were assassinated, he said that the brothers in Ethiopia had condemned the act.

He went on to say that the incident had been planned by foreign quarters which aimed to destroy relations between the two peoples. He called on the Ethiopian authorities to deal with the incident just as they had dealt with the incident involving the Egyptian president. He said Sudan had asked the Ethiopian authorities to inform it of the results of their investigations.

His excellency, the ambassador, said that the Ethiopian authorities had prepared a jumbo jet aircraft to carry the two bodies, the members of their families, and the staff members of the embassy, who have just been expelled by the Ethiopian authorities, back to Khartoum tomorrow.

Army Garrison Deserts, Joins Opposition Forces

MM0609091195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Sep 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Garrison Deserts and Joins Opposition With All Its Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Sudanese Alliance Forces [SAF], one of the opposition's military wings, announced in a statement yesterday that a garrison from the eastern region of Sudan had deserted and joined the opposition, with all its weapons.

The statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy, said that the garrison, from the Karora area, situated on the Sudan-Eritrea border near the Red Sea, has deserted and joined the SAF.

The statement says that the Karora garrison commander, Captain Nabil Yahia, arrived at one of the SAF bases in the company of 13 noncommissioned officers and soldiers with all their weapons and equipment, in addition to a Landcruiser vehicle, and declared that they were joining the military opposition.

This is the first time that a Sudanese garrison has deserted and joined the opposition with all its weapons.

The statement quoted Capt. Nabil Yahia as saying that there is increasing discontent within the ranks of the Sudanese Army. He added that he will reveal everything about "the training camps set up to shelter terrorists in various parts of Sudan and to train Islamic Front elements."

It should be noted that the SAF, led by Brigadier General 'Abd- al-'Aziz Khalid, is considered one of the opposition Sudanese National Grouping's military wings. The movement, according to its charter, seeks to rally Sudanese Army officers and soldiers to "bring about an armed uprising."

Sudanese-Eritrean and Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are experiencing severe tension that has reached the point of boycott and mutual accusations of undermining each other's stability and supporting the opposition. This has affected the entire Sudanese eastern border region, Sudan's longest border, which has prompted Khartoum to send reinforcements to the area.

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Kuwait

Foreign Minister Views U.S. Movements, Iraq

NC0609092095 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 1 Sep 95 pp 36-37

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sa'id] In light of the developments that followed the defection of the Iraqi president's sons-in-law, do you see any reason to justify all these U.S. movements?

[Al-Jabir] First, the U.S. movements you mention were not intended for Kuwait alone, but for Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. They followed Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan and the revelations he made. The issue is of interest both to them and to us because our goal is the same, namely, that the Iraqi people get rid of their regime, which denied them the chance to get together with their brethren in the Arab world and hold international contacts. What we wanted to stress is that all these recent movements in the region were not so much military as political. We held consultations. At the same time we had to take precautionary measures, particularly since we are dealing with a regime that does not have one iota of reason. The recent revelations about a plan to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia provide proof of this. Thus, we had to take precautions and to be extremely alert to any movements that might take place. But we are now certain that there is no Iraqi movement beyond the 32d parallel.

[Al-Sa'id] But the United States has contradicted itself. At first it exaggerated things and confirmed the presence of an Iraqi military buildup but later it backed down and confirmed that there was no Iraqi buildup.

[Al-Jabir] We have said from the start that there was no Iraqi buildup. We relied in this on U.S. information as well as on the information available to us. The U.S. measures were precautionary, particularly since it has been confirmed, even by the Iraqi defectors, that there was a plan in October [1994] to attack Kuwait and the eastern province of Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Sa'id] People are saying that the United States, using various methods, is playing a major role in activating differences among neighbors in general and in the Gulf in particular with an eye on oil revenues.

[Al-Jabir] I cannot turn oil into food to eat or store; oil is a commodity I always look forward to selling. This is something we must not disagree about. As for what is being said—that the United States is arousing inter-Arab differences—I have nothing to say to this other than to recall the Lebanese saying: Whenever there is a problem, they blame the Italians. I say that neither the United States nor anybody else can incite differences among Arab states. Unfortunately, our differences are of our own making and not caused by anyone abroad.

[Al-Sa'id] Some say the United States is dictating its terms to Kuwait and that Kuwait follows them to the letter, such that if it is ordered today to reconcile with Iraq, it will do so.

[Al-Jabir] I wish you could give me one example of something the United States ordered to which we said yes. I think that not even the United States would accept seeing any country dealing with it in this manner. The United States does not dictate anything to us and does not put any pressure on us.

[Al-Sa'id] To what extent can we say that the repercussions of the Gulf war have eased?

[Al-Jabir] We hope to see all the repercussions abate. But while the current regime in Iraq stays in power its neighbors will feel uncertain about its intentions and, consequently, there will be no stability.

[Al-Sa'id] Do current developments promise the downfall of the Iraqi regime?

[Al-Jabir] As far as the Iraqi regime is concerned, the tremor that hit the ruling family will shake the people's confidence in the regime. But it is not our business to eliminate or retain a regime; that is the Iraqi people's business.

I believe recent events will shake confidence in the regime. Sympathizing with the Iraqi people in their suffering, we hope the reasons that led to their misery in the first place will disappear so that they can rejoin their nation and resume their international relations.

[Al-Sa'id] What are Kuwait's conditions for restoring normalcy with both Jordan and Yemen?

[Al-Jabir] There are no conditions. We asked neither to apologize. All our brothers in Yemen and Jordan are required to do is to call on Iraq to comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and return the POW's and detainees and Kuwaiti property. I think that this was understood from his highness the amir's speech before the National Assembly. Hence, there are no conditions. It is a matter of international legitimacy that everybody should abide by.

[Al-Sa'id] A Kuwaiti delegation is expected to head for Jordan soon, is it not?

[Al-Jabir] We have no plans to send a delegation to Jordan. But we will meet some Jordanian officials, like Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, next month

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on the sidelines of the Arab League meetings in Cairo. I have a very good personal relationship with him.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the possibility of supplying Jordan with Kuwaiti oil?

[Al-Jabir] The door is open to supplying Jordan with Kuwaiti oil if Iraq cuts the supply.

[Al-Sa'id] What is the leading role Kuwait can play to consolidate Arab reconciliation efforts? And are we in need of a new charter of honor?

[Al-Jabir] First, the issue of a new charter was the work of the Arab League secretary general. This is not surprising; the man's struggle and his efforts to bring Arabs closer made him try his best to have an Arab charter of honor issued, particularly after President Mubarak's speech to the Arab League. But each Arab state has its own view on the issue. These views were submitted in writing. As signatories of the Damascus Declaration, we worked out a document called the Damascus Declaration Document, which will be submitted to the Arab League's meeting in September after approval by the governments concerned. It is clear that Kuwait approved that document.

As for Kuwait's role in Arab reconciliation, I hope the others will play that role, because Kuwait was the victim of injustice. It is hard for the victim to do anything. The victim always needs someone to stand by his side.

[Al-Sa'id] Kuwait is said to veto any all-embracing Arab summit to prevent conciliation with Iraq.

[Al-Jabir] Is it reasonable for us to reconcile with Iraq? How come?

[Al-Sa'id] Will the comprehensive Arab summit remain pending as long as things remain as they are?

[Al-Jabir] Meetings with Iraq have taken place under the umbrella of the Arab League and the United Nations. But reconciliation is not possible. Why should I reconcile with Iraq? The prisoners are still being held by Iraq and my property has not been returned. Reconciliation can only take place when all these problems are solved.

[Al-Sa'id] If the UN resolutions are implemented in full, could you reconcile with Iraq while Saddam remains in power?

[Al-Jabir] When that happens, we will discuss it. The Russians lost 30 million soldiers during World War II. But they became active and dynamic again. Situations turn and everything changes. But everything has an end.

[Al-Sa'id] Talking about the Russians, some Kuwaiti officials were recently cited saying that Russia was behind the Iraqi mobilization of forces in October and that the objective was to activate the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq, something that has harmed relations between you and Russia.

[Al-Jabir] As an official, I confirm to you that there is no truth in this. Also, what is Russia's relationship with this and what interests does it have in it?

[Al-Sa'id] No one differs over the Iraqi president's position but the issue here is the suffering of the Arab people.

[Al-Jabir] I wish Iraq would implement the Security Council resolutions. We are suffering along with the Iraqi people. When I say suffering, I really mean we are suffering. We help the Iraqi refugees on the border with Iran and on the Turkish-Iraqi border. We do this because we feel it is our duty to help the Iraqi people, as we do any other people. I hope the Iraqi regime will abide by legitimate international resolutions, including the return of the Kuwaiti prisoners and properties. I wish to reconfirm that Kuwait cannot lift an embargo or keep it in place. There are international resolutions on this that are not Kuwait's responsibility and that are not in its hands; they are the responsibility of many countries. We should not magnify Kuwait's size and depict it as being able to lift the embargo or keep it in place. Regarding the demand to lift the embargo, we first demand that Iraq implement the international resolutions.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you worried about reports that some countries in the Gulf region are trying to acquire weapons categorized as weapons of mass destruction. Here, I am specifically referring to Iran, on which Israel has focused the spotlight because it is trying to acquire nuclear weapons.

[Al-Jabir] First, we worry about any country that owns nonconventional weapons. I hope this logic does not prevail in the Gulf region, whether the country concerned is Iran, Iraq, or any other country. The issue is not that I am against any specific country, but that the Gulf should be free of these weapons, particularly since we have signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. This is a call I make so that no one will compete to acquire something that could harm us all.

[Al-Sa'id] Next month you will resume discussions with Saudi Arabia on demarcating the border between your two countries. You will also discuss demarcating the border with Iran. I wonder whether there are any obstacles to this.

[Al-Jabir] I can confirm that there are no obstacles between us and our brothers in Saudi Arabia. This issue will be settled very soon. With regard to the brothers in Iran, there are no obstacles there. But we will proceed

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with the border demarcation with Iran after demarcating the border with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Sa'id] Why has the issue of border demarcation cropped up now as something that must be settled? Did any problems arise necessitating the need to raise it now?

[Al-Jabir] There are no problems, simply determination to resolve the issue. No problem has arisen with the brothers in Saudi Arabia but there is determination to resolve the issue and a conviction that we must get this issue over with so that we can delineate the borders with neighboring states, such as Iran. This is because demarcation in the sea must start from a specific point and if border points with one country are not delineated it will be difficult to delineate them with another country.

[Al-Sa'id] But the land border with Saudi Arabia contains oil.

[Al-Jabir] We will share it; there are no problems here. Let me stress again that we have no problems with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Sa'id] How would you describe your relations with Iran?

[Al-Jabir] Relations with Iran are good and we will try to keep them so because you must always maintain good relations with your neighbors.

[Al-Sa'id] How far can an agreement on collective security in the region be reached?

[Al-Jabir] This issue does not concern me alone; it concerns the Gulf Cooperation Council primarily.

[Al-Sa'id] What about your participation in the economic conference to be held in Amman in October?

[Al-Jabir] His Majesty King Husayn sent an invitation to his highness the amir, who replied that his circumstances do not permit him to attend. I received an invitation from Jordanian Prime Minister brother Zayd Bin-Shakir and I answered him by saying that Kuwait will be represented at that meeting but we have not yet decided who will participate.

[Al-Sa'id] People are saying the rush toward normalization with Israel has slowed down, particularly on the part of the Gulf states.

[Al-Jabir] First, before normalization, we look forward to peace prevailing in the region, as long as it is a full and comprehensive peace. We still have Syria and Lebanon and once the brothers there finish with this issue and achieve peace, the current situation will change. Basically, we are not a party to the conflict with Israel. But we fought and boycotted [Israel] for the sake of our brothers in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine. When this matter is over and comprehensive peace is achieved, the boycott will end and the road will open to a different situation.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your personal assessment of the Palestinian-Israeli track?

[Al-Jabir] Personally speaking, I say that neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis can run away from the agreement. But there will be problems, because the Palestinians are not in agreement and because the Israelis are not capable of offering full withdrawal.

[Al-Sa'id] But the Oslo accord is full of loopholes.

[Al-Jabir] At any rate this is a Palestinian policy. We cannot object to any party adopting a policy that suits its interests. We are with everybody, without exception.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you still have reservations about the PLO's leadership?

[Al-Jabir] As far as the PLO is concerned, I say that my relations with it are not good. I have had enough insults from it. But this does not mean I am against the Palestinian people. We hastened to contribute $25 million to help the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho last year. My difference with the PLO does not mean I am against the Palestinian people or peace. We just look forward to a full and comprehensive peace.

[Al-Sa'id] What about relations with Egypt?

[Al-Jabir] You may ask me about anything except relations with Egypt, because they are more than excellent. I do not need to be asked about such close and strong relations as Kuwait's relations with Egypt.

Amir Gets Yeltsin Message on Former Yugoslavia

LD0609105195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 6 Sep — Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, today received a message from the Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

A statement issued by the Amiri Court said the message was on the current situation in former Yugoslavia and the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

Oman

State Minister Leaves on 'Official' Visit to Iran

JN0509100795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 5 Sep (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign

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affairs, left for Tehran this morning on an official visit to Iran which will last several days.

Before departure, the Omani minister told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY that he will relay an oral message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He said his visit is in reply to the visit which Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati paid to Oman last year.

He stressed that relations between Oman and Iran have reached an advanced stage and that the two countries maintain contacts and have several joint committees. He said the visit will also provide a good opportunity to learn about the Iranian viewpoint on the current issues in the area as well as other regional and international issues.

He said that during his visit, he will meet with several Iranian officials who are acquainted with all issues related to ties between the two countries, as well as the officials concerned with regional affairs and issues of security and stability in the region.

Qatar

Government To Ease Border Controls With Oman

NC0509173095 Paris AFP in English
1705 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Sept 5 (AFP) — Qatar on Tuesday [5 September] decided to ease border controls with its Gulf neighbour Oman as well as establish ambassador-level ties with Columbia, the official news agency QNA said.

Qatar and Oman agreed to allow their nationals to cross the border using simply an identity card at a meeting here between the two countries' interior ministers.

Oman and the United Arab Emirates introduced a similar measure in April 1992, the first such move by members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

Meanwhile Qatar and Columbia announced in a joint statement their decision to establish diplomatic ties to "strengthen their friendly relations and consolidate international peace."

Amir Says Normalization With Israel 'Premature'

NC0309121495 Paris AFP in English
1131 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Sept 3 (AFP) — Qatar's Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifa Al Thani said it was "premature" to consider setting up diplomatic ties with Israel, in an interview with AL-WATAN newspaper on Sunday [3 September].

"Talking about normalisation with Israel and establishing diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv is premature," Shaykh Hamad said in comments to mark the 24th anniversary of the Gulf state's independence from British rule.

Shaykh Hamad, who replaced his father Shaykh Khalifa in a bloodless palace coup on June 27, also slammed Bahrain for planning to build a tourist resort on the disputed islands of Hawar, one kilometre (0.6 miles) off Qatar.

Doha announced on July 29 that it would become the first Gulf Arab state to open an official representation in the Palestinian self-rule areas, but did not say whether it would do the same with Israel.

Israeli officials visited Qatar for the first time in June 1994 to attend a session of Middle East multilateral talks on weapons non-proliferation.

The amir said "the multilateral talks are not a substitute to the bilateral talks" between Israel and Syria, and Israel and Lebanon.

Doha said last year it would be ready to sell liquefied natural gas to Israel through a pipeline, if the two normalised ties and if the project was profitable.

Qatar, a small oil producer, has been involved in multi-billion- dollar projects to tap its giant North field, one of the biggest gas reservoirs in the world with an estimated 7.09 trillion cubic metres (236.3 trillion cubic feet).

On the dispute with Bahrain, the amir said "Qatar's position is based upon the need to strictly abide by international law."

"The announcement by Bahrain that it will set up projects on the Hawar islands contradicts the principles agreed upon by the two parties, and has no legal consequences" on the dispute, he added.

Bahrain in April boycotted a meeting with officials from Qatar and the International Court of Justice at The Hague to start settling the dispute on the islands which are believed to be rich in gas.

The dispute erupted in 1939 after Britain, former colonial power in the Gulf, awarded the islands to Bahrain and the two countries almost came to war in 1986.

Shayh Hamad also said that the August 8 defection to Jordan of former Iraqi industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan "is purely an Iraqi issue," rejecting any interference in Baghdad's internal affairs.

Qatar has called for a lifting of the oil and trade embargo imposed by the United Nations on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

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On the economic front, Shaykh Hamad admitted that Qatar's economy was stagnating but said it was a worldwide problem, and also due to the huge investments made by Qatar in gas and petrochemical projects.

"The current economic stagnation is a worldwide problem ... the problem for the oil-exporting developing countries is even tougher because of the continuing fall in oil prices.

"Qatar has launched in the past two years important projects in gas, petrochemicals and fertilizers, which required considerable financing, reducing cash liquidity.

"We expect these projects in the near future to allow for a diversification of the economy and thereby reduce our dependence on oil".

Shaykh Hamad has already taken several measures to attract capital and offset the impact of weak oil prices, including new investment laws and approval of the creation of a stock market.

Saudi Arabia

Visa Restrictions on Egyptians Tightened

NC0509163195 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Sept 5 (AFP) — Saudi authorities have tightened visa restrictions for Egyptians to cut the number of foreigner workers in the Kingdom, Saudi businessmen said Tuesday [5 September].

The Interior Ministry "is no longer giving authorisation to recruit Egyptians, but the measures do not affect doctors and engineers for the moment," said one boss, asking to remain anonymous.

The measures have not been officially announced and it was not known if they targetted only Egyptians.

Diplomats said they were part of the kingdom's policy introduced at the start of the year to reduce the foreign workforce.

From now on only specialists and those who are highly qualified will be allowed visas, and taxes up to 1,000 rials (270 dollars) will be imposed for a visa.

Riyadh turned to Egyptians to help replace 800,000 Yemenis who quit the kingdom during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, when Saudi-Yemeni ties worsened because of Sanaa's perceived support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Since the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991, some 400,000 Egyptians have obtained visas for Saudi Arabia, bringing the number of Egyptians in the kingdom to almost a million, according to unofficial figures.

Relations between Cairo and Riyadh have been strained since June when an Egyptian doctor was flogged in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has five million foreign expatriates living in the country out of a total of 18 million residents.

United Arab Emirates

Daily Hopes Air Strikes Against Serbs 'Renewable'

JN0309145495 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 31 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "What Comes After the Air Strikes?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At last, the West has lived up to its new promise and it seems to have regained some of NATO's prestige and the credibility of the United Nations vis-a-vis events in Bosnia. This comes after four air strikes launched by NATO aircraft against heavy artillery positions, radar and communications equipment, fuel supply stations, weapons and ammunition warehouses in Sarajevo, and air defense systems for the Serbs around Tuzla and Gorazde.

We say this despite the extreme delay and clear procrastination by the West in taking such a step. The West finally took this step to save its face. The West used the massacre by Serb gangs against innocent civilians in Sarajevo last Monday [28 August] to establish a human dimension through which NATO with its air strikes could restore its former image. It also achieved a political dimension that supports the new U.S. peace plan, which seems to be the last applicable plan, especially after the Bosnian delegation threatened not to take part in the negotiations on this peace plan if the West ignored Monday's massacre.

We hope that this retaliation against the Serb aggressors will not be temporary. Indeed, we hope that this retaliation will be renewable whenever the Serb aggressors embark on new attacks against Muslim enclaves — which are theoretically and not practically under the protection of UN forces in Bosnia — or whenever they exceed their limits in not responding to any peace efforts to resolve the problem.

We also hope that the retaliation will be in the form of a letter sent by the West to the Serbs, saying that the era of military appeasements is over and no longer effective. We also hope the retaliation will carry political and military results that are more significant than the air strikes launched in past months. Even NATO and UN observers, but not the Serbs, admit that these previous air strikes only resulted in destroying a Serb truck and a radar station.

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Finally, we really hope that the large-scale NATO air strikes will be the start of a campaign to purge Serb war machines, which are positioned around Sarajevo despite international resolutions calling for the expeditious withdrawal of these war machines from the vicinity of the Bosnian capital. We also hope that these air strikes will be the start of a campaign to entrench UN resolutions and to reiterate the firmness of international will to legitimize the Republic of Bosnia-Herzeoginva and to maintain its independence.

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Saddam Expected To Request Asylum in Arab State

NC0609145495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian sources expect Saddam Husayn and his family to request political asylum in an Arab state. According to the sources, this is one of several alternatives available to Saddam after he hands over authority to loyal army elements.

According to an Egyptian expert, Saddam Husayn is preparing the internal conditions in Iraq so that he can carry out these plans by infusing his regime with new ministerial faces that have no connections with the ruling party or family. In the meantime, Saddam is trying to improve his foreign relations.

Other Egyptian sources expect Iraq to witness more developments soon. The sources said today that Iraq is now prepared to see more activity outside Saddam's circle.

Husayn Kamil Claims Ekeus Translator Iraqi Agent

MM0609092895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Ekeus' Arab Translator Baghdad's Agent?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Washington, AL-HAYAH — Informed Western sources have stressed to AL-HAYAH that General Husayn Kamil disclosed to Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Committee entrusted with dismantling Iraqi mass-destruction weapons, that an Arab translator working for the committee is an "agent" for Iraq. The sources added that Ekeus informed representatives of the Security Council permanent member states of the matter.

The sources pointed out that Husayn Kamil, who was in charge of the Iraqi weapons file until before his defection to Amman three weeks ago, leveled the accusation at the translator during his meeting with Ekeus in the Jordanian capital, where the latter arrived from Baghdad over a week ago. The sources added that Ekeus was accompanied by his Arab translator. Husayn Kamil asked Ekeus about the identity and the name of this person. When he heard the name, he asked Ekeus to move him out of the room, saying that the name was known to him and that the person was an "agent" for the Iraqis supplying them with information about the international committee's activities.

The sources also said that Ekeus' Arab translator usually accompanies him to Baghdad and that his duties included translating Arab documents relating to the Iraqi weapons program and their analyses. [passage omitted]

Ex-Intelligence Chief on Defections, Implications

95LH0269A Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Before Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz gave a description of Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, as "a traitor of his country and president and a man who has lost his importance," Iraqi media maintained silence regarding the rift that has taken place in President Saddam Husayn's family and the echelon of his regime. The Iraqi press, radio, and television only reported the dismissal of Husayn Kamil Hasan, who had fled to Amman. They did not report that the Iraqi president's son, 'Udayy, paid a quick visit to Amman and that King Husayn received him with the Iraqi president's adviser, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

Thus, life appeared normal in Baghdad. People went to their work as usual, although many of them have heard the news about the defection of the three Iraqi officials with Saddam's two daughters (the wives of two of the defectors) from foreign radios.

A woman shopping at a popular market in Baghdad said: "All I can say is that I would be shocked if these reports turned out to be true."

This was the first time relatives of Saddam Husayn have fled outside the country. Many people in the Iraqi capital still do not believe the reports. A journalist said: "I cannot believe this. It is truly shocking."

An Arab diplomat said that "the regime in Iraq does not necessarily depend on relatives and ministers. It is a firm, well-knit regime based on the well organized ruling Ba'th Party."

However, Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former Iraqi chief of intelligence, said that a state of confusion is prevailing in the Iraqi capital. Al-Samarra'i, who joined the opposition after defecting from Iraq about eight months ago, said that "the reports we have received from Iraq suggested that the situation was abnormal and that a state of chaos and confusion prevailed among the members of the armed forces and the people, particularly in Baghdad."

In an interview with REUTER, he noted that "an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust exists between Saddam and his family and followers, and this was creating much trouble for the regime."

He added that "Kamil will reveal—if he has not already done so—many secrets, which will show that Saddam was lying to the United Nations. This means that the UN resolutions calling for punishing Iraq should be directed

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at Saddam and that efforts must be made to overthrow him."

Al-Samarra'i urged the Iraqi opposition groups and states in the region and the world to encourage the defection of the members of the Iraqi Government and Army, stressing to them that they would not be put on trial. This, he said, will increase the number of defectors.

He said: "I think that the countdown for Saddam's downfall has begun and that he will fall unless he receives outside support to help him catch his breath." He added: "I did not mean to say that the regime will fall tomorrow or next week. What I meant is that this development has paved the way for the regime's downfall."

Asked about the possibility of finding a leadership to assume power if President Saddam's regime was overthrown, al-Samarra'i said: "I think that a realistic leadership will appear at the appropriate time to govern the country. What is important now is for the countries in the area not to deal negatively with what happened."

Al-Samarra'i said that he currently heads the Iraqi National Movement, an organization that mainly depends on the Iraqi people at home. The movement has extensions in the army and the party. It also has contacts with some other opposition party organizations in Iraq.

Al-Samarra'i served as chief of Iraqi intelligence until he was appointed director general of the presidential office in 1994. He retained his military rank of staff major general. He said: "I left the country in December 1994 following a major security penetration in our organization, which could have jeopardized the lives of many people if I would have stayed there."

Opposition Figure Hasan al-'Alawi on Defections

95LH0272A Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
12 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—An opposition expert on the Iraqi regime expects the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan and his group from Baghdad to Jordan to become a precedent by other relatives of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Hasan al-'Alawi told AL-KHALIJ that the defection of the president's two cousins and daughters will rectify the argument about the "president father" of the Iraqi people who are suffering from social inequality. The defection of these people revealed the absence of a close family network and the Iraqi president's failure to maintain paternal ties with the members of his family.

Al-'Alawi expressed his conviction that the defection of Kamil and his group does not indicate the existence of a power struggle, "because none of Saddam Husayn's family members can compete with him." He maintained that the defection was a "struggle for shares within the president's family." It seems that this struggle had reached a point where "an expert on the regime's internal operations and a member of the security apparatus decided to anticipate matters and leave voluntarily."

Al-'Alawi said that either Kamil and his group were afraid of the possibilities of a popular coup after which they would be brought to account as partners in the regime or they were afraid of the president, knowing he is unmerciful against his close relatives.

The opposition leader thinks that "the international factor" was present in this defection. The operation was probably arranged several months ago. "The primary defector is the primary person wanted by the Security Council and Ekeus because he carried the keys to the Iraqi weapons' stores." The second defector "holds the plans for the Iraqi president's personal security."

Regarding the future of Iraqi-Jordanian relations in light of these developments, al-'Alawi said: "We must note that the Jordanian foreign minister and not the interior minister made the announcement about the defection and the request for asylum. This is, traditionally all over the world, the interior minister's task. I think that Jordan wanted to send a message to the Gulf states and other parties interested in the Iraqi issue that it has finally decided to leave the Iraqi axis."

Al-'Alawi thinks that President Saddam Husayn will try to display flexibility toward Jordan and control his emotions because Jordan is the only outlet for Iraq.

As an expert on Iraqi policy, al-'Alawi says "I do not rule out the possibility that Saddam would now try to establish an alliance with Iran, reviving his offers to the Iranians during the invasion of Kuwait. If he can achieve this, Amman will hear disturbing voices."

Al-'Alawi expects that Saddam would end his alliance with the Tikrit bloc and turn toward the oppressed groups, particularly the Shiite majority, to get their help. He will revive the policy he maintained toward them when he was vice president.

It should be recalled that the Iraqi president removed his half-brother Watban from the Interior Ministry a few months ago and appointed a veteran party official, Muhammad Zammam 'Abd-al-Raziq, in his place. He also removed his cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid from the Defense Ministry and appointed Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim from Mosul, instead. He also appointed a prominent Shiite officer, Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Wahid Sinan Rabit, as chief of staff.

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Official Says U.S. 'Scheme' Targets All Arabs

JN0409145195 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sep 4, INA—Iraq's representative to the Arab League Nabil Najm has said that the U.S. scheme does not target Iraq only, it rather targets the whole Arab countries and especially (Arab) Gulf states.

In a speech published by AL-'ARABI AL-MU'ASIR newspaper on Monday, Mr. Najm said the conditions and obstacles put by the U.S. whenever the UN reviews the issue of the embargo on Iraq are completely away from the text and soul of Resolution 687 which Iraq has fully implemented.

The U.S. Administration, through maintaining the embargo on Iraq, intends to achieve its political, economic and military aims in the whole region.

There have been many international calls inside and outside the UN Security Council for an urgent lifting of the embargo on Iraq, he stressed.

He said Iraq has no interest by not cooperating with the UN Special Commission. On the contrary, Iraq has presented all information that could help the Commission to lift the embargo as soon as possible.

Paper Analyzes Anti-Iraq U.S. Policy

JN0609092595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA) — An Iraqi paper stresses that the United States does not hesitate to use the meanest and most immoral and inhuman methods to achieve its objectives.

In an article headlined "Poor Vision or Lack of Roots" today, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says: The escalation in its tone, its impatience, its excessive threats of military force, and its distortion of facts governs U.S. policy toward many countries, including the Iraqi people, leadership, and cause.

It adds: We do not exaggerate when we say that the various phases of the Mother of Battles exposed the depth of this U.S. decline and presented it to the world unvarnished and as it really is.

The paper wonders about the recent U.S. media, political, and military escalation against Iraq, saying: Why does the United States behave like this? Does this unrestrained behavior conform with its responsibility as a big power, that is, big by material standards?

The paper notes: This hostile policy shows that the U.S. mentality lacks even a minimum level of maturity and balance. This might sound strange to those people who are dazzled by the United States' ready-made propaganda formulas, but not those who are familiar with U.S. policy.

The paper says: The human brain seems unable to understand a U.S. policy that seeks to rule the world through the unrestrained use of brute force, using the United Nations and the UN Security Council to peddle the hostile U.S. policies, a policy that is the most dangerous phenomenon at the close of the 20th Century.

The paper points out: This hostile policy, which seems indifferent to international relations and sensitive and volatile issues, spares no country, including allies, particularly when these countries' national policies conflict with U.S. interests. This was the case with France, Japan, and others.

The paper adds: This leads us to talk about one of the biggest paradoxes of the 20th Century: the serious imbalance in the two sides of the U.S. equation. This imbalance is represented by a huge materialistic force and an enormous lack of rational and wise decisionmaking. This is in addition to superficial thinking and immoral dealings with other states.

The paper says: History shows that the United States lacks a cultural heritage that can help it choose the right path and guide it to a clear vision and a rational behavior, for what is the heritage of a country that President John Kennedy described as a nation of immigrants?

In conclusion, the paper says: What is most dangerous to any country is the lack of cultural roots and an absence of an accumulated heritage of traditions and experiences that eventually form policies and restrictions conducive to sound behavior without deviation.

Paper Reiterates Call for Normalization With Iran

JN0509113795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged Iran to establish good-neighborly relations with Iraq in accordance with the rules of wise dealing among states in general and neighboring states in particular.

In an article today under the headline "For the Sake of Sound Iraqi-Iranian Relations," the paper says that Iran and Iraq have many things in common, whether on the level of geography, history, and religious bonds, or on the level of slogans contained in Iranian political speech in terms of hostility to U.S. imperialism which Iran describes as Arch Satan.

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The paper stresses the need for Tehran to take an actual step by embodying these principles. This is because such slogans will remain meaningless if not backed by practical actions.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH draws the attention to what observers believe in terms of Iran's hostility to Arch Satan. It focuses on what they say: The slogan on hostility to Satan has not led to true and sincere solidarity with Iraq on which imperialism imposes an unjust economic blockade. In fact, some observers believe that Iran's words and deeds have thus far been in favor of tightening the blockade on Iraq, and of creating problems for it to threaten its citizens' security, sovereignty, and independence.

The paper says: The first step of normalization Iran can make toward Baghdad is to settle the unresolved problems, which were caused by the eight-year war, particularly regarding Iraqi property being held by Iranian authorities in violation of commitments the made during the aggressive Atlantic war against Iraq, and the release of all the Iraqi POW's, whose detention contravenes Islam and humanitarian and moral principles.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on Iran's rulers to show good intentions toward Iraq. It says: Iranian authorities can give sincere proof of their positive approaches toward Iraq through solving these problems, especially since any delay in resolving them is no longer justified and shows that Iran has not learned from past experience.

The paper says: Expanding the horizons of peace between Iraq and Iran, particularly after Iraq released the Iranian POW's five years ago, necessitates Iranian reciprocity to end a continuous human tragedy seven years after the end of fighting. Neither heavenly nor man-made laws approve of this tragedy. In fact, this tragedy is a flagrant violation of these laws.

Concluding, the paper says: If it does so, the Iranian leadership will prove its good intentions and pave the way for the expansion of the horizons of peace with Iraq, its people and experienced historic leadership.

Paper Says U.S. Policymakers 'Ill-Advised' on Iraq

JN0509125195 Baghdad INA in English
1130 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep 5, INA—It seems that U.S. policy-makers are ill-advised as how to deal with Iraq, said the BAGHDAD OBSERVER daily, adding that they think that Iraq like any other third world country would be subdued by rumbling U.S. tanks near its borders. In this they rely on the assessment of some outlawed Iraqi elements or that of some subservient Arab rulers.

But Iraqis are a battle-hardened nation that would not be intimidated by the rattling of U.S. guns. Right from the beginning of their confrontation with the U.S. and its allies, Iraqis have realized that the U.S. is having a hidden agenda towards Iraq, said the English-language daily.

The paper added that the U.S. is trying to disarm Iraq, the only Arab country that succeeded in redressing the imbalance of power between the Arabs and Israel in an attempt to maintain Israeli supremacy over the entire Arab world.

The U.S. is seeking to destabilize the political and security situation in the country so that it would create pretexts to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, said the BAGHDAD OBSERVER.

This U.S. scenario has never been absent from even the ordinary citizen of Iraq, said the paper, adding that for this reason the Iraqi people are keeping vigilant eyes on suspicious U.S. manoeuvres. They are preparing themselves for the worst and they are confident that they will bury all foreign designs.

The BAGHDAD OBSERVER said the Iraqi people know the U.S. will attack from a distance but it will refrain from committing ground forces to combat Iraqi forces. Therefore they can repel such aggression and this will rally the Arabs, Muslims and all peace-loving nations behind their leadership.

U.S. Efforts To Undermine Arab Solidarity Seen

JN0309110695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has urged Arab countries to confront the challenges posed to them in light of the so-called new world order and the U.S.-Zionist defiance of Arab rights.

In an article today under the headline "What Has the New U.S. Bubble Achieved?" the newspaper says that the crisis fabricated by the United States and backed by Zionism against Iraq has delayed any talk about reviving Arab solidarity according to pan-Arab principles in view of the U.S. escalation of the situation and movement of fleets in the Arab region.

In its article, the daily reviews Arab and international developments and their results in light of the heightened U.S.- Zionist onslaught against Iraq and the area countries. The paper says that the results of these developments have underlined the need to revive Arab solidarity on official and popular levels. It says that the U.S. Administration has been pushed to an embarrassing

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situation in light of the efforts to revive Arab solidarity following its embarrassment at the Security Council when it became the only state engaged in a constant war demanding continued starvation and siege of Iraq.

The paper says that the recent clamor, lies, and fabrications about Iraq's intention to attack Kuwait, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia have also been motivated by the U.S. desire to continue the looting of Arab money and pan-Arab wealth and to maintain the military presence at the gates of oil. However, the paper says, the United States quickly went back on those lies for fear that its presence in the region might finally lose any credibility.

The paper stresses that the Americans and the Zionists were astonished when they received Arab official and popular reaction rejecting the fabricated U.S. clamor after the Iraqis showed a great deal of coherence, awareness, and smart reading of the events and stands. As President Saddam Husayn said, the Iraqis' resilience and steadfastness will make this game just another bubble.

Paper Calls Economic Embargo 'Real Terrorism'

JN0109123195 Baghdad INA in English
1145 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep. 1, INA— AL-'IRAQ daily has said that the attempts of misleading, procrastination and camouflage by the U.S under umbrella of the anti-terrorism is a new tactical manner to brand legitimacy to its alliance with some satellite regimes and justify its military presence in several areas of the world.

In an article on Friday [1 September], the paper said that America is the first terrorism-sponsored state around the world.

It made it clear that the Third World peoples had become the victim of all forms of the U.S terrorism either through the direct military intervention or the military and economic aid presented to the hireling and dictatorial regimes or the conspiracies, intrigues and assassinations.

America, since 1991, is blockading the Iraqi people economically under fragile pretexts contrary to the logic of reason, AL-'IRAQ said, confirming that the embargo is considered as a real terrorism of a 20-million people.

It further said that the unjust embargo and the direct aggression against Iraq are a violation of the international legitimacy and all norms and laws as well as a direct aggression on an independent and sovereign state.

It stressed that continuity of the unjust embargo on the people of Iraq is considered as a U.S provocation and unveils the real terrorism being exercised against the human rights and freedoms of the peoples to the self-determination without foreign interference.

U.S. Spokesman Remarks Show 'Hostile Intentions'

JN0309073395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0640 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL- THAWRAH has stressed that the recent statements by the U.S. State Department official spokesman reveal Washington's hostile intentions against Iraq and its people and political system. Those intentions, the paper says, expose the actual reasons behind the insistence on maintaining the blockade, which has been imposed for over five years now.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today: This brazen U.S. statement is considered a serious precedent in international relations and constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, where a big power is announcing measures to change the national political system of a founding member of the international body.

The paper adds: Iraq has drawn the attention of the UN Security Council to the seriousness of the U.S. statements and the nature of the measures that the United States intends to adopt against Iraq. Therefore, the international community should rise to its responsibilities vis-a-vis the U.S. announcement on Washington's intention to launch an aggression against Iraq.

The paper explains that the U.S. practices and hostile statements and what is being published about visits and contacts by U.S. officials aiming to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs expose the U.S. deliberate violation of the rules of international law and UN Security Council Resolution 687, which provides for respecting Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. attempt to undermine Iraq's Arab relations and to create clouded atmosphere, with the aim of launching aggression against it, shows that the plan of aggression and plotting is continuous. It also shows that U.S. statements and measures aim at maintaining the blockade and distorting Iraq's image before the international community.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The United States directly intervened in Iraq's internal affairs after its failure to convince the international community of maintaining the blockade and after it found out that it will be lifted soon once Ekeus announces the end of his mission.

The paper notes that Iraq's Arab relations are witnessing clear relaxation and are returning to normal, because

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Iraq's ties with its brothers are stronger than estrangement and fragmentation which the enemies are trying to impose. Hence, a number of Arab countries, including some Gulf states, support the lifting of the sanctions and do not show hostile stands toward Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Iraqi people rally around their faithful, national leadership represented by President Saddam Husayn. And this people will defend, by all means and with their known militant spirit, their political system and national independent decisionmaking.

Information Minister Comments on UN Sanctions

JN0509161195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA) — Participants in the seventh conference of the World Popular Islamic Conference Organization [PICO] held their second working session today. The session was chaired by Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, deputy head of PICO's Executive Bureau and former Jordanian minister of awqaf.

The participants in the session hosted Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, who reviewed the effects of the continuation of the crime of the unjust blockade, which has even targeted cultural and media requirements in Iraq. [passage omitted]

The information minister said: The enemies of God and humanity thought that they could cripple Iraq through their treacherous 30- state aggression and bombardment of its infrastructure, transportation routes, power and water facilities, and mosques and churches. In their 42-day aggression, they used more than 141,000 tonnes of explosives. The Iraqis, however, under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, rolled up their sleeves and started to rebuild what was destroyed by the evildoers. Thus, rancorous people were disappointed and all their malicious schemes were defeated. [passage omitted]

The information minister added: The United Nations issued 31 resolutions against Iraq. These resolutions did not prevent the export of food and medicine to Iraq and cultural cooperation with it. However, the Sanctions Committee acts according to the policies and private interpretations of its member nations.

The minister of culture and information gave the participants many examples that prove that the aggressors hold a grudge against the people of Iraq. This grudge led the aggressors even to bar the import of pencils and the printing of the Holy Koran for six million students at Iraqi schools, who are covered by a nationwide faith campaign to teach the Holy Koran.

The minister stressed that President Saddam Husayn's leadership and acumen foiled enemy schemes to starve the Iraqi people. This was done by drawing up a plan to cover all Iraqi families by the ration card and sharpen the resolve of the Iraqis to increase agricultural production. [passage omitted]

Authorities Reportedly Increase Border Security

JN0509084495 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi authorities have recently enhanced their security measures on the borders with Jordan in an effort to stop sheep smuggling to Jordan. These measures were taken following recent developments. In the past, smuggling operations were carried out in broad daylight.

Reports from the Jordanian-Iraqi borders say Iraqi forces are using helicopters to chase smugglers, even inside Jordanian territory.

Sheep smuggling from Iraq to Jordan exhausts the supply of red meat in Iraq. The Jordanian market does not benefit from such operations, because most of the sheep is smuggled once again to Saudi Arabia.

Opposition Reportedly Kills 60 Security Officials

LD0509192095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, 5 Sep — A press statement by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] today said that not less than 60 members of Saddam's regime's security and intelligence services were killed and a large number were wounded in an attack carried out by Iraq opposition forces in southern Iraq [date of attack not given].

The statement added that they, mostly members of intelligence services and Saddam commando units, had gathered in a big hall to draw up plans to confront the deteriorating situation in the southern areas and the continuing collapse of the regime's repressive bodies.

According to the statement, the regime's partisan, security and intelligence bodies, particularly the Special Security Organization, has received painful blows from the Islamic resistance forces, and their situation has worsened since the flight of Saddam Kamil Hasan al-Majid, who oversaw the work of these bodies in the southern areas, to Jordan with his brother Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid on 8 August.

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Exiled Iraqis Request Permission To Fight Regime

JN0309151895 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi masses in refugee camps in neighboring countries have requested his eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], to open the door for them to volunteer in the arenas of jihad and resistance to deal the final blow to the dying regime and to preempt any action by the enemies of the Islamic nation, especially the Iraqi people's enemies, aimed at implementing their sinister plots to bring an alternative that would suit their interests and ambitions in our Islamic region.

In their appeal, the masses said: Your Eminence, al-Hakim, leader of jihad: These days we are witnessing the fall of the tyrant's fortresses and castles one after another. The various repressive bodies which the tyrant thought would protect him are now falling. On the other hand, we are witnessing the forces of infidelity and misguidedness, represented by the United States and its agents, waiting for the opportunity to appoint a suitable agent to serve their interests and policies aimed at crushing the dignity of the Muslims and bringing about their submission.

Through our experience, we are aware of the United States and the flimsy cover behind which it is hiding. The United States fears the power of those who struggle for the truth. Therefore, and out of our faith in your jihad and patience, we request you to open the door for jihad and for volunteering to deal the final blow to and stand in the arena of confrontation against all plots that are being prepared by our enemies, the enemies of Islam, faith, and principles.

Alliance With Iran Against 'Great Satan' Proposed

NC0409135495 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 04 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 4 (AFP) - Iraq's government press called Monday for Baghdad and Tehran to overcome their differences from the 1980-1988 war and form an alliance against the United States.

"The presence of a common enemy makes it necessary for Iraq and Iran to opt for tactical cooperation, even if strategic cooperation proves impossible because of mistrust and bitter experiences," the daily Al-Jumhuriyah said on the 15th anniversary of the start of the war.

"It is time to work with Tehran to correct and bury the mistakes of the past, especially since the Great Satan is looking to wipe out Iraq and Iran, which it calls 'outlaws'," the paper said.

"Great Satan" is Tehran's term for the United States.

Al-Jumhuriyah said Iran and Iraq's geopolitical weight meant they could be at the centre of a new bloc opposed to the United States.

"Russia, Germany, France, Japan, China, India and North Korea, as well as close to a billion Moslems, would be obliged to rally to such a powerful and wealthy bloc," it said.

Al-Thawrah, the newspaper of the ruling Ba'th party, called on Iran to "normalise its ties with Iraq on the principles outlined by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the seventh anniversary of the (end of the) war."

Saddam set out as conditions for normalised ties the release of Iraqi prisoners of war and the return of Iraqi planes flown to Iran to escape allied bombing in the 1991 Gulf War.

Papers Urge Iran To Establish Ties With Country

JN0409085595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0651 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—Two Iraqi dailies have called on Iran to establish normal, good-neighborly relations with Iraq based on respect for each party's will and options according to international conventions.

In two editorials today on the 15th anniversary of the Iranian aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980, the two papers stress the importance of joint action with Iran to correct the mistakes of the past and bury its complexes.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the economic and political weight of both Iran and Iraq qualifies them to attract the "lost horses" in the forest of the U.S. wolf. In addition, the paper says, the two countries' relations with the Islamic world can be used to rally around 1 billion Muslims around Baghdad and Tehran.

The paper indicates that one should not pause to revive any painful past unless the objective is to draw lessons for cooperation. No matter how severe and sensitive the differences might be, the paper says, the presence of a common heartless, strong, and united enemy; that is, the West, gives us two options. The first option is tactical cooperation if strategic cooperation proves impossible under the weight of doubts, bitter experiences, and insoluble pending problems.

The other option is strategic cooperation based on agreement on common substantive points, led by joint action to confront the attempts to annihilate the Muslims and to defend their interests, values, and principles in a

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hostile world, because Iran and Iraq adopt approximate and similar general policies in basic fields. Therefore, agreement between the two countries is a strategic necessity to avoid their destruction one after the other.

The paper stresses that tactical agreement between the two countries can lead to strategic agreement because resolving deep-seated problems and complexes may need a long time and confidence-building measures, because confidence is currently weak between the two countries.

The paper says any tactical or strategic Iraqi-Iranian agreement will mean that the regional balance of power will begin to change not in the interest of the United States and its satellites, who will be quite reluctant to antagonize both Iraq and Iran. Such cooperation will attract regional and international heavyweights to join a new bloc that will inevitably emerge. Russia, Germany, France, Japan, China, India, North Korea, and other states will be compelled to gradually join a new and rich international bloc that does not seek war and confrontation with the United States, a bloc that simply wants to defend its national interests and prevent U.S. excesses.

AL-JUMHURIYAH ends its article by saying: Is there a more noble religious, national, and humanitarian mission than that of stepping up the confrontation of imperialism and turning the table on it? Can there be a wiser and more farsighted reply to the U.S. claim that it is impossible to achieve cooperation between Iraq and Iran than the establishment of such a cooperation? Is there a better time than the present to establish this cooperation when the U.S. and Zionist knife is so close to Iraq's neck after it has been removed a few centimeters away from Iran's neck? The bells toll loudly. Will the need to take precautionary measures for the future prevail over the memory of a painful past?

AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, stresses that the lesson we hope the Iranian regime has learned from its eight-year aggression on Iraq is that Iraq is not an easy morsel it can swallow and then move to the next prey, and that a steadfast and militant people who are close to their leader and command cannot be vanquished, and that the Iranian regime's only option is to return to logic and mutual respect.

The paper calls on the Iranians to establish normal relations with Iraq in accordance with what President Saddam Husayn said in his speech on the seventh anniversary of Great Victory Day on 8 August 1995 that the Iranians must not delude themselves into believing that the embargo might make us bargain on our principles, values, and the bases of our ethics, and the interests of our people and nation, and that they must work for a relationship based on clear legal and ethical foundations and on good neighborliness and nothing else.

AL-THAWRAH says: From this premise, any relations based along these lines dictate on Iran to return the Iraqi properties deposited with it, and release the prisoners who have been in Iranian jails for a long time as a gesture of good will, and without any bargaining to expand the scope of peace between the two countries.

Jordanian Students Renew 'Pledge' to Saddam

JN0309191095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian students studying in Iraq have renewed their pledge to leader President Saddam Husayn.

In a cable sent to his excellency on their behalf by the chairman of the General Union of Jordanian Students, Baghdad branch, they stressed that the sons of the Arab nation are aware of the true nature of the conspiracy being hatched by the imperialist and Zionist circles against Arab aspirations. They affirmed that Iraq, which raises the banners of dignity and honor, will foil the enemies' plans against the nation's present and future.

Industrialist Praises Ties, Cooperation With Jordan

JN0309144095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Sep 95 pp 32, 28

[Report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An Iraqi official praised his country's relations with Jordan in the areas of economic and industrial cooperation. In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, the Iraqi official expressed his appreciation for Jordanian businessmen who adhere to the constants of the Jordanian stand within the framework of maintaining existing relations between the two countries and peoples. 'Adnan al-Qudsi, chairman of the Iraqi Industries Union, said that transactions and cooperation between Iraq and Jordan will not be affected by transient political events. Al-Qudsi was commenting on economic and industrial cooperation between Iraqi and Jordanian businessmen in the wake of the defection to Jordan by General Husayn Kamil Hasan. He said: This will not affect the situation between both countries.

Al-Qudsi said: I do not believe there is a chance to obstruct any agreement between us. Describing the relationship between Baghdad and Amman, al-Qudsi said: With the existence of the international embargo, Jordan is our gate to the external world. Also, our country represents Jordan's strategic depth

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and its largest industrial and trade market that cannot be replaced. We believe that our brothers, the Jordanian industrialists, will continue cooperation.

The chairman of the Iraqi Industries Union disclosed new horizons for cooperation in the field of supplementary industries between Baghdad and Amman. He added that both sides are studying the possibility of achieving this after lifting the sanctions on his country. He noted that Jordanian-Iraqi committees will meet in Baghdad in October in connection with the Baghdad International Fair to follow up and complete what was discussed by the two countries' businessmen in their meeting in Amman last May when an Iraqi delegation was on a visit to the Jordanian industrial fair.

Al-Qudsi said: We were satisfied with what we saw, because the quality of Jordanian industry is good and it can compete with other industries. Jordanian industry, also, can assume a good position among the industries of neighborly countries. Al-Qudsi expressed his country's desire to develop aspects of cooperation with Jordan once the sanctions are lifted and to set up new projects, such as building an oil refinery, a railroad, and steel factory, as well as to benefit from Iraqi technical and technological expertise. He said: We are facing big economic challenges and the Arabs must be ready to remove the gap with others. [passage omitted]

Islamic Conference Urged To Support Lifting Sanctions

JN0409173395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0724 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has urged the World Popular Islamic Conference, which starts its work in Baghdad today, Monday, to adopt important decisions to meet the current challenges and responsibilities.

In an article today, the paper says that this conference will be convened amid exceptional and delicate circumstances witnessing an escalation of imperialist-Zionist plotting against Iraq, Islam, and Muslims. Meanwhile, the United States is waging a cruel war against Islamic states, particularly Iraq, seeking to foment sedition and internal strife following the Afghanistan and Somalia examples.

The paper adds: In addition to all its crimes, led by the five-year crime of genocide against the people of Iraq, the United States recently escalated the situation against Iraq politically, militarily, and on the media level, and is working hard to fabricate pretexts and lies to launch a fresh aggression against Iraq.

The paper adds: Because the slogan "Lifting the Suffering of Muslims and the Blockade Imposed on the Iraqis Is Every Muslim's Responsibility" raised by the conference is a sound slogan and constitutes a responsible response to the current grave challenges posed to all Muslims, we have no doubt that this conference will play its vital role in translating its slogan on the ground and will specify the means to mobilize and rally Muslims' energies and enormous resources to confront the U.S.-Zionist challenge in a manner that actually leads to lifting the suffering of Muslims and removing the blockade imposed on Iraq.

Concluding its article, the paper says: In our view, what is even more important are the efforts that members of the conference will undertake in their own countries to lift the Iraq blockade and deliver food and medicine to its steadfast people. This is because supporting Iraq and its cause constitutes support for the principles of Islam and its tolerant teachings and a support for right, justice, and virtue.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session, Discusses 'Democracy'

JN0409153295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1023 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has said that the exercise of democracy does not delete the official's leading role. Rather, it strengthens and protects him and determines the effective means of implementation and follow-up.

He said: Democracy means human interaction and listening to ideas, suggestions, and criticism and responding to them. This should happen even if the viewpoint of the less ranking official is more correct than the viewpoint of the minister, who should not blame or pressure his comrades to accept his viewpoints without their active and fair participation. This is because fair and objective participation leads to mature conclusions and solutions and defining the most correct road or roads to the objective. His excellency said that participation and exchange of views do not cancel the minister's leading role and responsibility in making the final decision after free and objective debates have taken place.

In this regard, his excellency recalled the debates that used to take place at the meetings of the General Command of the Armed Forces during the glorious al-Qadisiyah battle and the Mother of Battles. He said: At those meetings, discussions dealt with military plans and the progress of battles. The meetings were characterized by the finest democratic practices. Every member of the General Command used to give his views on

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issues under discussion, supported by information and experience. We used to call to those meetings field commanders and sometimes junior officers and soldiers. We used to listen to them at length. After they were given permission to leave, the General Command would return to its discussions. Sometimes, hot debates would take place where views were contradictory. However, after the debates calmed down, solutions would develop and the commander in chief would make the required decision.

These remarks were made when his excellency chaired the 34th session of the Council of Ministers. His excellency, may God preserve him, called on the ministers to prompt the concerned subordinates to play a useful role in discussions, be equipped with information, and express their views freely. The expression of opinion should not result in any administrative or legal responsibility because what is needed is interaction of views, and the minister should take care not to blame the concerned party for having a different opinion. Hence, the state cadres can be raised on free expression of opinion and fearless interaction with others.

In its 34th session, the Council of Ministers discussed topics on its agenda, including following up on a number of ongoing projects, the by-laws of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and a draft decision to protect state funds.

The president leader, may God preserve him, instructed that the people's councils and party organizations take part in supervising the mills in Baghdad and governorates as well as the silos in order to ensure accurate and efficient work in accordance with a formula which will be worked out by a committee chaired by the interior minister. His excellency also ordered that all ministries, whether concerned with production or services and which sell commodities and services, should pay attention to controlling and supervising costs, so the price list of these commodities and services will be fair. This is because inaccurate costs may lead to listing high prices for the purpose of distributing profits or awards among workers. Consequently, this will not create real incentive to increase production or improve quality.

His excellency said: In this case, the concerned minister should view himself as both a citizen and a state leader at the same time. Every experience yields lessons. We can only learn lessons after search, exploration, and serious discussion. We should also take into account that awards must be used as an incentive to promote production, and not the other way round. Therefore, I am in favor of each minister assuming his responsibility and setting up a neutral committee under his supervision to scrutinize prices and costs. When the minister has such a level of responsibility, care, and knowledge matters will proceed in a better way.

His excellency also ordered that attention be given to those concerned with cost accounting, and to enlist them in training courses, together with experienced people from universities and from among pensioners and state employees to participate in these courses. This will raise the level of efficiency and upgrade performance.

Flow of Goods, Money Restricted To Stem Inflation

NC0309083095 Paris AFP in English
0738 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 3 (AFP) — The Iraqi Government has slapped restrictions on money leaving the country and will control the flow of goods across its borders in a bid to stem its falling currency and runaway inflation.

The Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest decision-making body, issued a decree on Friday [1 September] giving the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Customs full powers to seize money that Iraqis try to send out of the country.

The U.S. dollar was trading at 2,000 dinars on the black market in Baghdad on Saturday, compared to 1,750 dinars a month ago, according to traders. The Iraqi Government's official rate for the dollar is 600 dinars.

The restrictions on merchandise include "luxury items" that Iraqis try to import or send out of the country.

According to the decree, anyone helping in the seizure of illegal currency or goods will be rewarded with 80 percent of their value.

Any Iraqi wanting to leave the country will now only be able to take the equivalent of 50 dollars.

The Command Council, headed by President Saddam Husayn, also decided to set up committees in Iraq's 18 provinces that will be responsible for confiscating items which are illegally imported.

Iraq, which has been under a five-year-old United Nations economic embargo, outlawed in 1992 the import of "luxury" items, including toys, alcoholic and fizzy drinks, perfumes, clothes and electronics.

Merchants can, however, freely import basic food items and vehicle spare parts.

The Revolutionary Command Council also ordered the confiscation of "antiques, manuscripts, and old coins and money, which cannot be used as currency," if Iraqis tried to send them abroad.

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A reward of 20 to 80 percent of their value has been offered for help in seizing any antique.

The Iraqi Government has also placed a ceiling on the value of antiques that can be exported at between 50,000 dinars (25 dollars) to 500,000 dinars (250 dollars). Any item valued above that will be confiscated.

The Iraqi currency's sharp depreciation has led to spiralling food prices, with a kilogram of sugar selling at 1,200 dinars Saturday, compared to 1,000 dinars at the beginning of August. Rice sells at 1,000 dinars a kilo, compared to 800 dinars a month ago. The average monthly salary in Baghdad is 6,000 dinars.

Before the UN embargo placed on Iraqi in 1990 for its invasion of Kuwait, the dinar was trading at 3.4 dollars.

Talabani Leaves for Turkey, Syria, Jordan

NC0409160395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], left for Turkey on board a special plane yesterday morning. He was accompanied by Dr. Kamal Fu'ad, member of the PUK political bureau, and Najat 'Aziz Agha, deputy speaker of the Kurdistan Parliament.

Brother Talabani's trip abroad is in response to official invitations from Syria, Jordan, and Western countries to visit and meet with high-ranking officials and Iraqi opposition leaders abroad.

These meetings will discuss the latest developments in the peace process in Kurdistan, the state of chaos the ruling dictatorial regime in Baghdad is facing, and overall developments in the region.

Brother Talabani's trip abroad follows a special meeting of the PUK political bureau, which decided to begin the necessary steps toward establishing peace in Kurdistan.

Commentary Encourages Kurdish Reconciliation, Unity

95LH0200A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 95 p 17

[Article by Kamran Qaradaghi: "Can the Kurds Agree?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Can the Kurds agree? One asks this question in light of the two peace proposals put forth separately in the past two days by Jalal Talabani's Kurdish National Union and Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party.

The answer is that there are enough points of contact in the two proposals for the two sides to agree that their representatives, with the participation of representatives of the other Kurdish parties, should sit around one table to discuss in a civilized manner how to combine the two proposals into a unified proposal that could serve as a basis for comprehensive agreement, if the two really want to serve the interests of the Kurdish people to the extent they have asserted in their two proposals.

However, if the two sides continue on the path of stubbornness and one expects the other to accept its proposal of its own accord or even through mediators, the situation will remain at an impasse, neither war nor peace. This will mean that the war option will have the advantage; for, as everyone knows, bad money always drives out good.

One of the first positive points is that the Kurdish Democratic Party for the first time is presenting a proposal for comprehensive agreement. For months the party maintained a position insisting that National Union forces would have to withdraw unconditionally from Irbil as a precondition for any future step toward a comprehensive agreement. The party's putting forward of an integral plan at the present time can be considered an essential change in its position.

It is perhaps the first time that the two parties have put forward a plan for a phased solution with a definite time limit for each phase. Many of the "solutions" that the two sides put forward in the past moved in a framework of generalities.

Another important point in the plans is that the two sides have finally realized that any solution must be discussed and debated with the participation of third parties. Previously they had insisted on bilateral solutions as the two legitimate elected bodies; thus, they never saw the need for a third party to intervene between them. One result of this policy was that the two easily tore up seven or so "strategic" agreements that the two party leaders had signed, sometimes in closed meetings between themselves alone.

Moreover, the two plans agree that there are basic principles that must be implemented in order for any normalization of conditions to have a long life. Among the first of these principles is making the region's capital a demilitarized city and removing the militias to definite areas.

In the past, the two parties tried to moderate their confrontations and conflicts by rushing to hold a meeting between the party heads and leaders. This would be presented to Kurdish and foreign public opinion as a sign that there were no problems and nothing to worry about. This time the two parties have been eager to have political dialogue finally arrive between them.

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All this does not deny that there are negative aspects to the plans. Some of these could kill the peace proposal in its cradle if the two sides and their go-betweens fail to deal with them. Perhaps the two most prominent points that could cause renewed disagreement are how to solve the problems of Irbil and the customs revenues that one of the parties has controlled since last summer. Certainly the mediators have a difficult task ahead in bringing the positions of the two sides together on these two points in the context of defining and ordering priorities.

It remains to be said that the point on which there is no disagreement in Kurdish public opinion is that the Kurdish situation has become so complex and thorny as to confront the Kurdish leadership with two options: either to reach agreement, or to abrogate decisionmaking more and more, thereby returning the Kurdish situation to the regional crucible.

Ramadan Confers With Irrigation Minister, Others

JN0409164295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president, held a meeting in al-Basrah Province today with the attendance of Mr. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, deputy prime minister; Mr. Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir, minister of irrigation; and Mr. Latif Mahal Humud, governor of al-Basrah.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan confirmed that the situation Iraq is going through requires exertion of all efforts and abilities to invest the agricultural land and then to provide bread for our people.

Paper Reports on Land Reclamation Projects in Maysan

JN0509202495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Majid al-Baldawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Faw Company, the State Organization for Operation of Irrigation Projects, and al-Hadba' Company for Maintenance of Irrigation Projects have completed implementation of land reclamation projects in al-Kahla' District and the opening up of al-Mashrah Streams in Maysan Governorate.

Making this announcement, Maysan Governor Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih said: The completed projects include the eight al-Mashrah streams: al-Jadil, al-Wansah, al-Muta'afiyah, al-Kazimiyah, al-Buhayli, al- Bak'ah, and al-A'ama on the right side of al-Malih River. The work included the installation of eight sluices to regulate irrigation.

The governor added that a second project included the opening up of al-Kahla', al-Misrah, al-Massas, al-Hayjah, and al-Na'na''ah streams on the right side of Umm al-Tawus River and al-'Adil stream on the left side of the river. He said that a third project included the extension of al-Khums stream by 5 kilometers on the right side of al-'Izz River. A fourth project, he said, included the extension of Abu-Kabar stream by 11 kilometers on the right side of al-'Arid River in order to irrigate an area of 10,000 donums.

Paper Reports on Building of al-Anbar Bridge

JN0509201595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by AL-THAWRAH correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Technical and engineering teams of al- Anfal Company, which belongs to the Ministry of Housing and Construction, have begun building the Huwayjah al-Bu-Mahal bridge in 'Anah District, al-Anbar Governorate.

Company Manager Engineer Talal Husayn has said the building of this bridge is part of the campaign which is being carried out by ministry teams to build bridges and aqueducts to facilitate the movement of citizens and the transportation of their agricultural crops.

The manager added: Company teams are getting ready to implement aqueducts across Dayyan al-Mani'i, al-Radkah, and Banat Hasan Valleys. These aqueducts will serve the citizens and help the flow of water, especially during the rainy season, and ensure that floods do not affect agricultural crops in these regions.

Regarding the maintenance of roads, Engineer Husayn said that company teams continue their work to maintain the Tikrit-Kirkuk highway within the second phase of the campaign for road maintenance which is being carried out by ministry teams. This includes maintenance work on the 300-meter long al-Sindiyah floating bridge in Diyala Governorate, where the teams have maintained the protective fence of the bridge and changed the bridge's eight mounds, he concluded.

Symposium Set on Role of Private Industrial Sector

JN0509201095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Jumah Suhayl]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Society of Iraqi Economists, in cooperation with the Union of Iraqi Industries, will hold a symposium on the private industrial sector's role before and during the blockade.

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Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, president of the Society of Iraqi Economists, has said that the symposium, which will be held at the society's headquarters on 28 August, will discuss researches and studies submitted by professors of economy and development. He said that the symposium will be attended by a number of those concerned with economic and industrial affairs and the representatives of the competent government departments.

Tawfiq added that the symposium's studies will center on two topics: First, the role of the industrial private sector in strengthening industrial development before and during the unfair blockade; and second, the General Tariff and Trade Agreement [GATT] and its effect on the industrial sector in Iraq. A session will be devoted to each topic, he said.

Tawfiq called on the economists to attend the aforementioned symposium and to take an active part in the discussion of the studies which will be presented in view of their importance.

Electricity Restored to Northern City of Dahuk

JN0309123695 Baghdad INA in English 1033 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sep.3, INA — Deputy Coordinator of the UN in Baghdad Viktor Wahlroos [name as received] said that Iraq has resumed electricity supply to the northern city of Dahuk.

Dahuk's electricity which comes from Ninawa Province has been cut from the city for the last two years because of shortages of spare parts.

Dahuk Province is under the rule of outlawed Kurdish elements since 1992 when Kurdish parties refused to sign an agreement with the central government in Baghdad.

Since then, the province together together with Irbil and al- Sulaymaniyah Provinces have been the scene of a lot of fighting between these parties.

Poverty, killing and stealing are dominant in these three Iraqi provinces.

Wahlroos who also runs a humanitarian programme in Iraq described the reconnection of Dahuk to the national grid as a positive development.

The resumption of power to Dahuk serves more than 750,000 Kurdish families in Dahuk city and attached villages and small towns.

Asked if the UN has requested Iraq to resume electricity supply to Dahuk he said he has not done so at least for the last month. However, he said: "We expressed our concern over the discontinuation of electricity for the last year".

The UN official said that his office has supplied the area with few generators and UNICEF has been active in this area. However, he said generators cannot work 24 hours and they do not supply decent power.

Wahlroos said the resumption of power to the area would help the reoperation of water-supply system in the city and would eventually reduced health hazards.

Transport Minister Inaugurates Cooperative Fair

JN0309153695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Sep 95

[From the "Evening Newspaper"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, transport and communications minister, inaugurated a cooperative fair today. The two-day fair is organized by the ministry's departments in cooperation with the General Union of Iraqi Women.

The fair, which was organized at the ministry, included clothes of various kinds and sizes and hand-made products made by female employees sold to the ministry employees for token prices.

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Indyk: U.S. 'Not Boycotting Festivities'

TA0509134895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk said today that the United States is not boycotting the festivities marking the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem.

The ambassador told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that he was absent from the festivities due to prior engagements, and that the cultural attache represented him.

Indyk made the remarks after meeting four Arab and Druze Knesset members.

Officials 'Regret' Absence

TA0509164595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Eytan Bentzur, deputy Foreign Ministry director general in charge of relations with the United States, has expressed his regret that U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk did not attend the opening ceremony of the Jerusalem 3000 festivities. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that when it became apparent that Ambassador Indyk would not attend the festivities, Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, held contacts over the weekend with administration officials in Washington. Professor Rabinovich expressed the hope that Ambassador Indyk would attend other events in the festivities for Jerusalem.

Ambassador Indyk said he was absent from the ceremony due to prior engagements and, because it was a cultural event, he was represented by the cultural attache.

This afternoon, the National Religious Party's [NRP] young guard staged a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv protesting the ambassador's absence from the ceremony.

[A similar report by Dani Zaqen on Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 5 September adds that "Jerusalem Municipality and the Foreign Ministry will most probably hurry up and invite Indyk to upcoming events in the Jerusalem festivities, hoping the events will not clash with Ambassador Indyk's other important commitments."]

Indyk To Attend Future Festivities

TA0509184795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Only 17 of the 70 ambassadors in Israel attended the opening of the Jerusalem 3000 festival last night. U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk stood out by his absence. The event was attended by several hundred guests from abroad.

Our correspondent Yuli Ofeq reports that this morning, some 100 of the guests were flown over Jerusalem and heard explanations from Mayor Ehud Olmert about the city's current development and future plans.

Should Ambassador Indyk's absence be viewed as a political statement? The question occupied the people on the air tour, and the answer was given this afternoon. The U.S. ambassador dined with Arab Knesset members in Abu-Ghawsh, and made it clear that there is no American boycott of the festivities. [passage omitted]

A short while ago, the United States announced that in future, the U.S. ambassador will attend events marking Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary. This was stated this evening by the State Department spokesman. Israeli sources did not tell the United States that they were displeased with Indyk's absence from yesterday's opening ceremony. This was reported by our correspondent in Washington Ya'aqov Ahime'ir.

Indyk Said 'Instructed' Not To Attend

TA0509174395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Washington source has confirmed to Israel Radio's English news that the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, was instructed not to attend last night's opening of the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations. The source says that while it is true that the ambassador had other commitments last night, he could have attended the opening at the Knesset, if he was given a green light by Washington.

Ambassador Indyk himself told reporters today the United States is not boycotting the festivities and that because last night's event was cultural in nature, he was represented by a senior cultural official. The ambassador spoke after meeting with Arab Knesset members [MK's] at Abu-Ghawsh. Reporter Yishay Eldar was there:

[Begin recording] [Eldar] The purpose of the luncheon meeting was to give U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk an opportunity to meet and talk with Arab members of the Knesset from across the political spectrum. But that was

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not the subject of the ambassador's statement when he came out of the meeting to face waiting reporters.

[Indyk] I wanted to take the opportunity to correct a misperception. The U.S. Government did not boycott the Jerusalem 3000 festival opening, and is not boycotting the Jerusalem 3000 festival. This is a cultural festival. I was represented yesterday evening by my senior cultural affairs officer. I had two prior engagements. One was to attend the American Embassy barbecue, because it was Labor Day and an American holiday yesterday, and secondly, to attend with my wife a benefit for the women's shelter at Herzliyya that was under the patronage and attended by Mrs. Rabin. The Jerusalem festival, because it is a cultural festival, going on over the next year, will provide ample opportunities for us to participate, and I am looking forward to attending various events as appropriate.

[Eldar] The Arab MK's attending the luncheon were more forthcoming concerning the actual table talk, but there seemed to be some disagreement between them as to what was discussed. According to Deputy Health Minister Nawaf Musaliha, much of the conversation concerned educational and cultural matters pertaining to the Palestinian community in the territories and abroad and the need for financial assistance in the fight against Islamic fundamentalism, especially the need for scholarships for Palestinian students. At this point, MK 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party interrupted to say that there had been absolutely no request for American money to fight Islamic fundamentalism; there had simply been mention of the need for scholarships. Besides which, he said, the principal topic of discussion had been the peace process.

[Darawshah] It was a good meeting, and we got more optimism about the implementation of the Oslo B agreement. He said that towards the end of this month — before the end of this month — there will be an agreement, and they will sign it in Washington.

[Eldar] Also at the meeting was MK As'ad As'ad of the opposition Likud Party.

[As'ad] I was the only member of the opposition here. Most of my friends were coalition. They tried to say that if the Likud takes the power in 1996, the peace process will stop. I told them that it's not right, that it's not fair to say that. Then I said that the majority of the population of Israel, coalition and opposition, are for peace, but we are divided about the way how to achieve this peace.

[Eldar] The luncheon meeting today between U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk and Arab MK's was sponsored by the Abu-Ghawsh Foundation. [end recording]

Paper on Indyk's 'Patronizing Excuses'

TA0609084695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Indyk's Absence"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] If there is one thing Israelis neither need nor want from an American ambassador it is to have their intelligence insulted. For Ambassador Martin Indyk to say, as he did yesterday, that he had snubbed the opening celebrations of Jerusalem's 3,000th birthday because of a previous engagement is to give the white lies of diplomacy a bad name. To use this excuse after initially claiming that the event was "cultural" and therefore warranted only the presence of the cultural attache is to add insult to injury.

The reason Indyk did not attend the celebration is as plain as it is obvious: The Clinton administration decided that it would not be in the U.S. interest to do so. Washington has a perfect right to assume that its ambassador's appearance at the Israeli celebrations in Jerusalem would compromise its position as an "honest broker" in the Israel-Arab negotiations, and it is its prerogative to draw the appropriate conclusions from this assumption. But if the U.S. really considers Israel a friend and an ally, it should spare it the patronizing excuses.

The government, too, must draw the proper conclusions from the incident. Letting the press know Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was miffed and upset may help alleviate anger and frustration, but it fails to address a very real problem.

The Clinton administration may be the friendliest since the establishment of the state, but like previous administrations it is wedded to the notion that Israel must withdraw to the 1949 armistice lines with minor border changes. What makes it different is that it believes Israel can be cajoled, rather than pressured, into withdrawing — a belief the current government has done nothing to dispel.

The administration also assumes that such an Israeli withdrawal can be achieved only if Israel feels strong and secure. To enhance this feeling, it has pursued a policy of unprecedented military cooperation and diplomatic support. But it pursues traditional American dogma in aspiring to a Pax Americana in the region, in which Israel will be a protectorate, depending on American backing and sponsorship, rather than strategic depth and topographic advantage for its defense. It is a concept which not only contradicts Zionist ideals of self-sufficiency and independence, but which has proved disastrous in the past four decades.

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Israel has hoped that on the issue of Jerusalem, Bill Clinton is committed to his campaign pledge of June 14, 1992: "I recognize Jerusalem as an undivided city and the eternal capital of Israel." Monday's incident put this in doubt. It could be, of course, that the administration simply meant to keep a "neutral" stance now, and that it intends to support Israel's position once the Jerusalem question comes up in the final-status talks. But it is far more likely that Washington will seek a "compromise" that will divide the city into Israeli and Palestinian halves.

Aware of the nature of the problem, Economics Minister Yosi Beilin said yesterday that the incident constituted a "moment of truth," which signaled that the status quo was unacceptable.

"What happened was a shocking truth for many people who think that what we need to do... is to leave the situation in Jerusalem as it is," he said. "We need to come to a situation where in the final arrangement the world will recognize Jerusalem as our capital." What Beilin means by a changed situation is clear: If Israel is to have world recognition for Jerusalem as its capital, it will have to let part of the city become the Palestinian capital.

In averring that Indyk's absence from the celebrations should awaken Israelis to the gravity of the challenge, Beilin has performed a service. Israel must realize that the time for fateful choices is near. The government will have to decide whether to fight for Rabin's vision of "an undivided Jerusalem, Israel's capital forever," or satisfy the expectations of the world community and relinquish half the city to a Palestinian police state. And as the American shunning of the celebrations should make clear, if it chooses the former route it will have to go it alone.

Leaders Discuss Peace Process With U.S. Rabbis

TA0609094695 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Sep 95 p 8

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman said that in the negotiations with the Palestinians, "Israel is packing it in too quickly in the territories, and when the time comes for the permanent settlement talks, it will no longer have any cards to play."

President Weizman made the remarks to a delegation of U.S. rabbis who visited Israel in late August to express solidarity with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in view of the opposition to the peace process manifested by some U.S. Jewish leaders.

From the report summing up the rabbis visit, it transpires that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres promised them that Hadagan Hill in the 'Etzyon Bloc will remain under Israeli sovereignty. Peres rejected the criticism leveled at the government for continuing to negotiate with the Palestinians in the face of escalating terrorism against Israel. He said "Israel is not the only country that suffers from terrorism. France and England do not have a complete solution to the problem either."

The document, prepared for policymakers in Jerusalem, also shows that the rabbis visit with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was a failure. The report says "the meeting with 'Arafat was devastating for the delegation." Only two of the five rabbis attended, after two others made it unequivocally clear that they were not prepared to participate.

In conclusion, the document says that the aims of the visit were not achieved and that the visitors returned to the United States divided in their stands.

Decision Made To Maintain Control of Hebron

TA0609080895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Levi, Ben Kaspit, and Hanan Schlein]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will not cede overall responsibility for and control of defense and security in Hebron under any conditions. This was agreed at the end of a meeting at the prime minister's bureau last night. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin; Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres; Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq; Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command; and Major General Dani Yatom, the prime minister's aide-de-camp.

Israel will be prepared to ease some conditions and make gestures with regard to civilian matters. It will also agree to the establishment of two Palestinian police stations in Hebron, manned by dozens of policemen. In addition, Israel will agree to the Palestinian Authority's [PA] stationing municipal inspectors in Hebron and to the deployment of a foreign observers force. Israel will propose that additional Hebron areas, beyond those already offered, be transferred to the Palestinians. Israel will also offer to transfer villages south of the city to Palestinian control.

Under no circumstances, however, will Israel agree to cede responsibility for security in the city itself. This stand was adopted after the prime minister became convinced that as long as there is Jewish settlement in the center of Hebron, control over security cannot be transferred to the PA.

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In the course of the meeting, Rabin — and even more so Peres — tried to pressure the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to make further concessions on the security issue. "We accept your stand," Peres told the officers. "The problem is that 'Arafat will not buy it."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Taba tonight for what Jerusalem has termed "a marathon" designed to rescue the negotiations from the deadlock. If necessary, the two men are expected to spend all day Thursday, as well as Friday until noon, together.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 6 September carries a related report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz, who cites Foreign Minister Peres as saying that "since the negotiations on the permanent arrangement are scheduled to begin in May 1996, it is perhaps pointless to insist on each minute detail at this time." Raz adds that "the gist of the formula Peres will present to 'Arafat is that Israel will withdraw from larger areas of Hebron, but the withdrawal itself will last longer."

[Raz further reports that it was decided "that the IDF will be permanently deployed in several areas in and around Hebron, retaining overall responsibility for security. In the more distant future, there will be room for greater flexibility with regard to withdrawal, although we will then be in the midst of the talks on the permanent arrangement."

[Raz adds that "very senior Israeli elements have voiced great skepticism regarding the viability of 18 September" as the date for signing the Israeli-PA agreement.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 6 September on pages 1 and 2 carries a report by On Levi and Moti Bassok about last night's meeting at Rabin's bureau, adding the following: "It was decided to propose to the Palestinians that the IDF reduce its presence in the center of Hebron during the elections to the autonomy council. During that period, it would use the main roads only." In addition, it was decided that "the IDF redeployment will be limited, with the IDF's evacuating only a number of sites used by Israelis. During the elections, IDF troops will patrol the main roads and areas populated by Israelis. To prevent friction, ballot boxes will be situated at locations removed from the main roads."]

Man Murdered, Wife Stabbed by 'Terrorist'

TA0509055195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Palestinian terrorist has murdered one man and stabbed his wife in the settlement of Ma'ale Mikhmas near Ramallah. Alan Ben-'Ami has details:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] The attack took place at about 2:30 [0030 GMT] this morning. It appears that one of the residents was disturbed by noises outside his home. He went out to see what was going on, and it was then that he was attacked and stabbed to death. It is not clear if his wife heard what was happening and tried to go to his aid or simply went out to see what had happened to her husband, but she too was stabbed and was badly injured. The attacker, however, was forced to flee as she began to cry out and raised the alarm.

Police and the army have been called in and soldiers began a hunt after the killers. A curfew has been placed on the nearby Arab villages. The soldiers began fanning out in the area on foot and in jeeps, lighting up the night with flares and bringing in a helicopter to help them scout the area.

The settlers at the settlement said that they have complained about their security situation to the authorities on a number of occasions. They say the settlement can easily be penetrated at its northern end and that thieves have infiltrated and tried to steal equipment from them in the past.

It is not absolutely clear if theft or terrorist motives brought the killer to Ma'ale Mikhmas last night, but Major General Ilan Biran, the head of Central Command, said just a short while ago that at this point, security authorities are viewing what he called this disgusting murder as a terrorist attack.

The couple who were stabbed are both former Anglo-Saxons who had been living in Ma'ale Mikhmas for the past four years. They have a baby daughter who was asleep and unharmed in the house when her parents were attacked. The injured mother is now recovering at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. [end recording]

Caller: Attack on Behalf of PFLP

NC0509085295 Paris AFP in English 0726 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ramallah, West Bank, Sept 5 (AFP)—A Palestinian stabbed an Israeli to death and seriously wounded his pregnant wife Tuesday [5 September] in a raid on the occupied West Bank settlement Ma'ale Mikhmas, the army said.

An anonymous telephone caller claimed responsibility for the murder in the name of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash.

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The PFLP is fighting on against Israeli occupation despite the PLO's autonomy agreement with the Jewish state.

"This operation is our reply to the arrest a week ago of three of our activists in Ramallah and the continued detention by the forces of occupation of Mustafah Qatamish," the caller said.

Qatamish, who has been in jail for three years, is a member of the PFLP's politburo.

A neighbor said Daniel Peri, who was of British origin, got out of bed and went to investigate suspicious noises.

He was attacked and his wife, who alerted neighbours, was wounded when she tried to intervene. The couple have an 18-month old child.

The army said the killer managed to escape.

Troops clamped a curfew on Arab villages surrounding Maale Mikhmas, east of Ramallah, as part of a manhunt which involved a helicopter.

General Ilan Biran, central region commander, who took charge of the search operation described the murder as "a very serious terrorist attack".

The death brought to 89 the number of people killed by Palestinians in Israel and the territories since the launch of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994.

Ben-Eli'ezer: Peace Process May 'Collapse'

TA0509181595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Reacting to the attack in Ma'ale Mikhmas, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer warned that the wave of terrorism could put the peace process in jeopardy. Earlier in the morning, Ben-Eli'ezer attended discussions on one of the outstanding issues in the way of an agreement with the Palestinians — the construction of a bypass road around Bethlehem. While this issue was resolved, he stresses the need for strict security arrangements to prevent terrorist attacks.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Eli'ezer] That's why our demand is to do everything in order to make sure that all security arrangements will be not only discussed and stated; I would like to see them cemented in the ground. We can just move to further developments with the guarantees that both sides are doing all we can in order to minimize such terrible things that happened last night.

[Correspondent David Apple] Let me ask you, Mr. Ben-Eli'ezer: What can be done in an instance like this, in which a terrorist went straight into a house of civilians living in a Jewish settlement in the West Bank? What kind of arrangements can be put in place in order to prevent attacks like this?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Well, let me put it that way: I think it's too naive to go again and again and to try to explain through the professional channel what should be done, except fences and other things. By the way, there were no fences in this specific settlement, unfortunately. But rather than that, I would say the only thing that has to be done is the understanding between both sides — mainly the Palestinians — that such events like this might bring to the collapse of the whole agreement between us and the Palestinians. The only thing that has to be done is a full control by the Palestinians over their inhabitants in every place and everywhere. [passage omitted]

Details on Israeli 'Mole' in Hamas Reported

TA0509152895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Sep 95

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Did Israel succeed in putting a mole in the Gaza Strip Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

That, at least, is what the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas claim, and they even name him: Walid Humayda, a resident of Gaza's al-Shajahi'yah neighborhood.

Humayda, according to the claim, penetrated the organization's leadership while simultaneously reporting to the Israeli Shin Bet on Hamas activities. It was also claimed that Humayda is the one who ousted one of Hamas' most wanted men, 'Imad 'Aql, which lead to his death.

Humayda is currently being detained by the Palestinian Shin Bet and is suspected of attempting to cause division between Hamas and the PA.

The Palestinian Shin Bet decided a few days ago to divulge the existence of the Hamas activist it has detained.

Walid Humayda, married and father of three, began his Hamas activity in 1988. He was a member of the Hamas strike committees and according to Palestinian sources, slowly climbed to the leadership in the Gaza Strip.

He was detained by Israel four times while it was still in control of the strip. About three years ago, he was deported to Marj 'Uyun in south Lebanon, but the sources said that just before his expulsion he was recruited by the Israeli Shin Bet. He was deported with the aim of giving him the cover of an extremist Hamas

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activist and to shield the fact that he was an Israeli collaborator.

After returning to the Gaza Strip, Humayda again joined the Hamas leadership. According to Palestinian sources, he also began to draw closer to Hamas' 'Imad 'Aql, who was involved in the planning and murder of 13 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and in planning a series of terrorist attacks. 'Aql met with him several times, and Humayda even hid him in his home.

Shortly afterward, in November 1993, precise information became available on 'Aql's whereabouts in Gaza. A Shimshon undercover unit reached him and killed him after a short struggle. It was one of the toughest blows sustained by Hamas.

Humayda was suspected of giving Israel precise and pinpoint information about 'Aql's whereabouts. The day after 'Aql was killed, Humayda took part in his funeral and was one of those who called for retribution against Israel, again in order to cover up his ties to Israel, according to Palestinian sources.

The sources claim that during Humayda's interrogation by the Palestinian Shin Bet it transpired that he had a detailed plan of operation, which he had received from the Israeli Shin Bet, to shoot senior PA members and even to murder some of them and then to take responsibility for the attacks in Hamas' name in order to sow dissent and division between Hamas and the PA, so that the PA would react by crushing Hamas.

In recent months things apparently started to go wrong. Hamas felt that Humayda was operating for Israel. He, in turn, felt that the ground was starting to burn under his feet and disappeared. About a week ago, however, he was caught by the Palestinian Shin Bet and is now under detention.

Following the disclosure of the affair, Hamas yesterday published a leaflet in which it said that following the PA-Hamas agreements reached recently it had uncovered that Humayda was a collaborator.

The leaflet also said that Hamas avoided kidnapping and punishing Humayda because it wants the PA to punish him for his actions.

The case set off a storm in Gaza. Hamas sources said yesterday that the affair points to Israel's involvement in Palestinian internal affairs and its desire to control the Palestinians in the territories even after pulling out.

Biran Confirms No Plans To Resign

TA0509060395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, denies that he plans to resign from his post or retire from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] following differences of opinion with the political echelon on the defense concept for the Hebron area. He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that differences are natural but that they are settled by the chief of staff and the prime minister.

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Al-Kabariti Expects Israeli-Syrian Breakthrough

TA0309103095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Moti Bassok and Shmu'el Segev in Toronto]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jordan's Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said in a meeting with Economic Planning Minister Yosi Beilin in Amman on Friday [1 September] that he believes there will be a breakthrough in the peace process between Syria and Israel this year. He said that the United States plans to get highly involved in the coming weeks.

It was learned yesterday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intends to return to the Middle East this month after Israel and the Palestinians sign the Oslo B accord in Washington. According to al-Kabariti, Christopher wants to break the deadlock on the Syrian-Israeli track, which he blames on Syria. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti, who recently visited Saudi Arabia to coordinate positions on Iraq, told Beilin that Riyadh also believes the Syrian-Israeli peace process is of great importance. For the first time, the Saudis spoke favorably of the Arab peace process with Israel. Al-Kabariti noted that Jordan believes that a speedy conclusion to the interim stage Israeli-Palestinian negotiations is very important, since it will widen the Middle East peace circle. The two men held a tete-a-tete meeting. [passage omitted]

In reference to the Syrian position, it was also reported that President Hafiz al-Asad has adopted the positions of Deputy President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the Syrian Chief of Staff, General Hikmat al-Shihabi, that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to suspend all progress on the Syrian track until after the November 1996 Knesset elections.

A senior Arab diplomatic source in New York disclosed that President al-Asad had reached that conclusion after ongoing contacts with the U.S. Administration on the renewal of the military officers talks, frozen since the Shahaq-al-Shihabi talks in Washington over two months ago.

The same source disclosed that King Husayn also believes that there will not be any progress on the Syrian track before the Knesset elections and that he has expressed that opinion to several Arab foreign ministers who have visited Amman.

The outcome of that Syrian conclusion is that Damascus now tends to support extending Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term for another three years in order to prevent any risk that a different president might support a separate agreement with Israel. Al-Asad regards al-Hirawi's continued term in office as a guarantee that Syria's control of Lebanon will remain total. Al-Hirawi's term expires on 4 November 1995.

Deputies Urge Debate Over Maneuvers With U.S.

JN0409194895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 4 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Ayman Rummanah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of the U.S.-Jordanian military exercises has been at the center of popular and parliamentary interest since 20 deputies requested a discussion of these exercises. All shades of parliamentary opposition say that the deputies should be briefed on the details of these exercises and that what is hidden should be revealed. The House of Representatives' speakership promised to arrange a private session between the deputies and the government. It said that this issue should not be debated in the House because this would be a violation of the Constitution.

Informed parliamentary sources expected this session to be held in the Pictures Hall early next week. One deputy said that the meeting will be nothing more than a "cooling down" of the opposition, as was the case in the private session that was held to discuss the confiscation of land in Jerusalem.

In their memorandum, the 20 deputies expressed their desire to know the goals of the maneuvers, the size and positions of U.S. troops, and the relationship between the maneuvers and General Husayn Kamil's defection, U.S.-Kuwaiti exercises, and the U.S. presence in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Gulf. They also said that they want to know the link between the exercises and the mission of Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs.

The memorandum was signed by the following deputies: Hamzah Mansur, Dayfallah al-Mumani, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, Dhib Anis, Badr Salih al-Riyati, Dr. Muhammad al-Hajj, Ahmad al-Kasasibah, 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, Dr. Bassam al-'Umush, Khalil Haddadin, 'Abd- al-Majid al-Aqtash, 'Abda-al-'Aziz Jabr, Dr. Mustafa Shunaykat, Dr. Hammam Sa'id, Tujan Faysal, 'Abdallah Akhu-Irshaydah, Talal 'Ubaydat, Salih Sha'watah, and Dr. Ahmad al-Kawfahi. [nineteen names as published]

Deputy Hamzah Manusr said the House's Speakership has ignored his request to discuss the issue on two consecutive occasions. Mansur believes that the forthcoming meeting will put the ball into the court of the deputies, who must then decide whether the government's statement is sufficient.

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Deputy Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani says: Jordan's policy — which is based on respect for the Constitution and the territory of the homeland — makes it imperative for the deputy to know the goals and nature of these exercises. The homeland's sovereignty is something that cannot be relinquished. The United States, which advocates false human rights slogans and which is devoid of all humanitarian concepts, comes to our countries saying that it wants to protect human rights while it actually wants to capture oil wells in Iraq as it did in the Arabian Gulf.

Speaking to AL-MAJD, al-Kilani added: We hope the Jordanian leadership is aware of these dangers. We also hope that the legislative and executive powers will concur with the higher leadership so that we can stand together as one rank in the face of the nation's enemies

Answering a question by AL-MAJD, Dr. Mustafa Shunaykat said: The main taboo with regard to these maneuvers is the Jordanian sovereignty. He added: Deputies and others question the necessity of these maneuvers at a time when we conclude peace agreements and seek stability and security, which will be realized only through good relations with neighborly countries that represent our depth from all aspects. From here rises the important question: For whose interest are these exercises held?

Deputy 'Abdallah Akhu-Irshaydah said: Foreign media, some foreign and local press articles, rumors in the street, and political meetings of many Jordanian parties suggested that Jordan will serve as a springboard and passageway for world, and may be Arab, forces seeking to strike sisterly Iraq once again.

He went on to say: At this stage, the House of Representatives should reveal the truth to the citizen, especially since we, as deputies, are considered the biggest and first union that is a manifestation of democracy in this country.

Al-Husayni Views Jerusalem Issue, U.S. Role

MM0109125695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Sep 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Faysal al-Husayni Tells AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT: The Jerusalem Battle Is Long; Palestinian Institutions Will Continue To Operate in the City in Accordance With the Oslo Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Faysal al-Husayni, the minister entrusted with the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian National Authority, has stressed that the Palestinian institutions based in the city will continue their work in accordance with the Oslo agreement, which stipulates that these institutions should continue to operate as long as they do not belong to the Palestinian Authority.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Husayni pointed out that Orient House is the Palestinian headquarters for the peace conference and the negotiations. And it is also the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation to the multilaterals, and preparations for the peace process are made in it. Al-Husayni warned that what the Israeli Government has been doing for a long time with a view to closing down Palestinian institutions in east Jerusalem is in response to pressure from the Israeli right. The aim is to isolate Jerusalem from the West Bank and to isolate these institutions from the Palestinian people and international establishments in a bid to end the Palestinian independence in Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni stressed that the Jerusalem battle is long, and that the Palestinians will never accept its becoming a (unified) capital of Israel. Because Jerusalem as a Palestinian city is a reality on the ground and is subject to the foundations on which the negotiations were launched. That is, Resolutions 242 and 338, which oblige Israel to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories.

Al-Husayni played down the importance of Israeli statements insisting on not withdrawing from east Jerusalem. He said that the Israelis refused to negotiate with the PLO in the past, and here they are negotiating with it. They also refused to negotiate with Jerusalem inhabitants, but they did later. And they announced the annexation of the Golan, and here they are negotiating with the Syrians to return it to them.

Al-Husayni said that when the Palestinians talk about Jerusalem, they are talking about an open city comprising two capitals of two states. And there can be two municipalities bound by a coordination umbrella. He stressed that Jerusalem should be a Palestinian capital in the east and an Israeli capital in the west.

Al-Husayni, member of the Fatah Central Committee, pointed out that elections to the Palestinian Authority will be held in Jerusalem, and that the Palestinian position on these elections is that they should be held in Jerusalem city itself.

He stressed the Palestinians' refusal to allow these elections to be held under the umbrella of the Israeli troops, whom the Israeli Government is refusing to withdraw.

Al-Husayni pointed out that the alternative solutions proposed by international mediators or Israel — namely that the voting should take place in post offices, religious places, consulates, foreign cultural centers, or inside mobile buses — are attempts to get around the obstacle

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of the Jerusalem inhabitants' participation in the next elections.

Al-Husayni stressed that the matter goes beyond the election question and is mainly to do with the Jerusalem issue, which is considered a red line that cannot be crossed by the Palestinians.

Al-Husayni held Israel fully responsible for the Israeli right's actions against Orient House and against him personally. He said: The closer we move to the final phase of the negotiations, the more concessions are made by the Israeli Government to the right wing.

He pointed out that responsibility for security in Jerusalem falls on the shoulders of the occupation forces. On current peace negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis and obstacles to be placed in their way by Israel, al-Husayni said that Israel is held fully responsible for that. He also held the U.S. sponsor fully responsible for the faltering of the peace process right from the beginning. He said that, had the U.S. sponsor played his role fully in the Washington talks, the Oslo agreement would not have taken place. He added that the U.S. behavior forced the Palestinians to move out of the U.S. capital to obtain from the Israelis what they could not obtain in Washington.

Al-Husayni stressed that there is U.S. commitment to the Oslo agreement, but the United States is not playing the required role to rectify the course when the Israeli side tries to depart from it.

Al-Husayni said that suspending the negotiations would not lead to sound results. However, he supported the idea of drawing up new foundations for the negotiations if there are mistakes in the negotiations process. He urged further pressure on Israeli negotiators and further coordination at the Arab and international level in order to develop the negotiations.

Committee Denounces Jerusalem Celebrations

JN0509171995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee has said that the Israeli occupation authority's celebration of the so-called 3000th anniversary of King David's conquest of Jerusalem proves that Israel's claim to Jerusalem is unfounded and that its hold over the city is an occupation.

In a statement today, the committee says the alleged Israeli historical claims to Jerusalem do not annul the rights of those who lived in the city before the Jews or the rights of those who lived there after them. The history of Jerusalem, the committee says, did not start with the Jews and will not end with them. Historical facts refute their claim that they alone have ethnic and religious claims to the city.

The committee says that the celebrations are clear propaganda, coming several months before the start of the final status negotiations, which will deal with the future of Jerusalem, and are yet another exposed brainwashing attempt to distort history and mislead world nations.

In its statement, the Foreign Affairs Committee says that the UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 242 and the subsequent resolutions concerning Jerusalem, consider Jerusalem an occupied Arab territory. Therefore, there will be no peace without the return of rights to their owners according to UN resolutions which have unanimously approved those rights.

The committee appreciated the EU states' refusal to take part in these celebrations because they have exposed and rejected Israeli political objectives.

Columnist on Nation's 'Approach' to Recent Events

JN0609084095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Jordan's approach to the recent developments in Iraq is within the Kingdom's anxiety and right to preserve regional stability and security as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its eastern neighbour and does not constitute any interference in internal Iraqi affairs, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti said Tuesday.

Mr. al-Kabariti was obviously referring to an implied Egyptian and Syrian assertion that Jordan was interfering in Iraq's internal affairs when it offered asylum to two high-ranking Iraqi defectors and criticised the policies of the Baghdad government that have brought about severe hardships for the people of Iraq.

"Jordan, as a country in the region and a neighbour of Iraq, has its own national interests to protect since it stands to suffer as a result of any untoward developments in Iraq," Mr. al-Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

In earlier comments to the French news agency, Agence France Presse, the foreign minister also affirmed the Kingdom's "right to protect its interests in the face of developments in Iraq even if that gave an impression of interfering in the internal affairs of" [quotation marks as published] that country.

Mr. al-Kabariti noted that "any country will be affected by the events going in a neighbouring country" and it "is

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very much within the prerogative of the affected country to behave accordingly."

"Iraq is an important country and its fate affects the security and strategies of all Arab countries," said Mr. al-Kabariti.

In his comments to the Jordan Times, the foreign minister noted that Jordan's approach to Iraq was consistent with the Kingdom's stand vis-a-vis similar situations affecting other Arab countries.

He noted that Jordan supported the Syrian intervention in Lebanon during the civil war in that country "when it became very clear that a potential disintegration of Lebanon posed a threat to Syria."

"We supported the Syrian role in Lebanon under the banner of the Arab League force," which entered Lebanon in 1975, and "again when Syria continued to deploy its forces in Lebanon on its own" after other Arab countries contributing to the Arab League force withdrew, Mr. al-Kabariti pointed out.

Similarly, "Jordan also backed Egypt when it became apparent that foreign-based terror groups were threatening Egypt's security and stability," said foreign minister. "There has been no change in Jordan's policy," he said.

The implied criticism of Jordan came in comments made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during a joint press conference they held in Cairo on Saturday [2 September].

Both leaders played down the impact on Iraq of the Aug. 2 defection to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil and his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil and their wives—both daughters of President Saddam Husayn.

The defections, said Mr. al-Asad, have been "blown up by the press, and I don't think the event itself deserved it." He also said "some people had high hopes" and that Gen. Kamil was "not as big as the media made him out to be."

Affirming that Syria and Egypt were against "meddling in Iraq's internal affairs," Mr. Mubarak said there were "plenty of rumours" about the defection and that there "could be other objectives (to the defection) that are not yet clear."

"What we hope for it something to happen to the benefit of the Iraqi people," said the Egyptian leader.

Jordanian analysts said the Egyptian and Syrian leaders obviously coordinated their positions during their discussions on Iraq that preceded the press conference and their comments contained an implicit criticism of Jordan.

"It is funny though," said one analyst, "that their comments did not take into account historic realities and facts."

"Jordan does not have any record of interfering in the internal affairs of any other country," said the analyst. "Can Egypt and Syria claim a record as clear as Jordan?"

Meanwhile Iraq, in a rare conciliatory gesture to Syria, said Tuesday it appreciated President al-Asad's comments that he did not expect President Saddam to fall.

"President al-Asad dealt in an objective and balanced way with the subject of the traitor Husayn Kamil's defection and its effect on the situation in Iraq," Foreign Minister Mohammad al-Sahaf said.

"We welcome any stand that is based on objectivity and balance in dealing with events and hopes to clear the atmosphere between Arab countries" said Mr. al-Sahaf, in remarks carried by the Iraqi news agency.

"Iraq is ready to build new relations with all Arab countries without exception to serve the high interests of the Arab Nation" Mr. al-Sahaf said. What Mr. al-Asad said was appreciated," he said.

"Iraq ordered tanks"

A Western diplomat, quoted by AFP, said Gen. Kamil had revealed that Iraq ordered from Russia 4,000 modern tanks to restore its land forces depleted by the 1991 Gulf War.

Gen. Kamil, former industry minister and the brains behind Iraq's weapons programmes, told U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus that Baghdad had sealed "several arms contracts," the diplomat told AFP.

"The most important agreed with Russia is for 4,000 tanks and would allow Iraq to modernise its land forces arsenal while guaranteeing exports of some of its oil to cover the costs."

Under the purported deal agreed a few months ago, the tanks would be delivered over several years once the U.N. embargo on Baghdad had been lifted, Gen. Kamil told Mr. Ekeus when they met in Amman on Aug. 22, according to the diplomat.

Gen. Kamil "told Ekeus...that Iraq's priority after the lifting of the embargo was to modernise its military strength," the diplomat said.

"This deal shows that Iraq wants to become once more the military power it was before the Gulf War" to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

According to Western estimates Iraq only has about 2,200 T54, T55, T62 and T72 tanks left out of 5,500 it had before the 1991 conflict.

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Gen. Kamil, said the diplomat, told Mr. Ekeus Baghdad was hoping to buy a modernised version of the Russian T72, the T80, which is already in service in the Russian army, as well as T90s due to go into use soon.

Iraqi papers said the country would resist what it said were attempts by Washington and allies to topple President Saddam.

State newspapers ridiculed Western media reports that President Saddam faced difficulties at home after the defections of the two Kamil brothers.

The Baghdad Observer said the United States was trying to "destabilise the political and security situation in Iraq to create pretexts to interfere in its internal affairs."

The paper said Iraq was certain that Washington would not commit ground forces to any possible attack on Iraq. It said Washington would use missiles and war-planes in its attack but these would not "intimidate the battle-hardened Iraqis."

The official Al-Qadisiyah newspaper said talk of an imminent end to Ba'th Party rule in Iraq is baseless. It said Iraq's enemies forgot that the membership of the ruling Ba'th Party "exceeded one and a half million people...Iraq and its leader will remain in bumper prosperity."

Chamber of Industry Head on Ties With Iraq

JN0409185595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Sep 95 p 15

[Report by Muhammad Amin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khaldun Abu-Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, has stated that the chamber's records show that the UN-approved Jordanian industrial exports to Iraq over the past eight months amounted to 50 percent of Jordan's overall exports.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Abu-Hassan said the value of these exports to Iraq amounted to approximately 250 million dinars while the value of Jordan's overall exports amounted to 500 million dinars, according to the certificates of origin issued by the Chamber of Industry. He also said that over the past eight months, nearly 250 Jordanian companies and industrial institutions have exported more than 75 items to Iraq, including foodstuffs, detergents, soaps, fodder, agricultural products, medicine, thread, chickens, eggs, and school copybooks and textbooks.

Abu-Hassan added that Iraq was still the only source of oil and oil by—products for Jordan, which receives Iraqi crude oil at half the world price. Jordan, he said, also imports other Iraqi oil products used in producing engine oil, gas, fuel oil, some oil by-products, and chemicals used by some Jordanian industries.

He also said that the wise Hashemite leadership has always backed the distinguished relations between the two countries because each country is a strategic depth for the other. The industrial sector in Jordan, he added, depends to a great extent on the Iraqi market, where Jordanian factories like the vegetable oil factories were established to export their products to Iraq. He also said that Jordan, led by our wise leadership, has always wanted to unify ranks and to be open to the Arab countries, expressing his hope that Jordanian exports will reach all the Arab countries.

Abu-Hassan added that economic relations between Jordan and Iraq are so strong that each country has become a strategic depth for the other. He said Jordan would not bow to any foreign pressure, especially by the United States, that is trying to weaken that relationship. This is an example for other Arab relations that we all seek in order to achieve Arab economic integration and more economic and political cohesion in light of current international economic blocs such as the NAFTA, which includes the United States, Canada, and Mexico and may also include Latin America, Central America, the Pacific states, Southeast Asian states, and the EU states. This, he said, should prompt us to strengthen ourselves.

Abu-Hassan pointed out that the United States is doing its utmost to pursue the policy of starvation and domination after it has replaced its traditional colonialist policy of divide and rule with the policy of starve and rule. He said that Jordan, thanks to its wise leadership, has always proved capable of overcoming all its problems and challenges and resisting pressures. The latest example is Jordan's economic losses as a result of the unjust blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah. These losses, he said, amounted to $1,500 million. [passage omitted]

Ten To Be Charged for 'Plotting Bombing Attacks'

JN0209072295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Sep 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A group of 10 people will be referred to the State Security Court this week to be formally charged with plotting bombing attacks in the latest case of attempted sabotage in Jordan, judicial sources said Friday [1 September].

The group, known as Bayat al-Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), was uncovered before it could actually carry out any attacks, said the sources.

The sources said the men, all of them under custody include the purported leader of the group, identified

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as 'Asim Muhammad Zahir alias Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi. [as received]

Bayat al-Imam followers believe only themselves to be the "true followers" of the Islamic faith and do not attend mosque prayers or schools because they reject the entire system, according to the sources.

During their interrogation the suspects maintained their sense of supremacy and insisted on their belief that everyone outside their circle was a "non-believer," the source said.

The sources said the suspects, most of them under 30 years, had confessed to having plotted subversion and explosives were found in the possession of some of them. The charge sheet against them includes illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials with the purpose of using them illegally.

According to the sources, some of the suspects are unemployed and several of them are illiterate.

The 13 suspects join at least eight others expected to be tried in separate cases when the State Security Court resumes sessions in September following a month-long holiday of the judiciary.

Among the others are two Jordanians accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat in March.

Others include members of two groups who were apprehended in the course of plotting subversion, according to the sources.

Salim 'Abdullah and Ahmad Qasim, both 22, the two accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gilles Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy will be charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal arms and explosives.

No immediate detail was available on whether the two assailants belonged to any organised group or what motivated them to stage the attack.

Reports in the local press said at that time that the two belonged to an extremist group which opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and resented Israelis visiting Jordan.

It was one of the rare attacks on foreigners in Jordan and security sources described it as an isolated incident.

Also pending are charges against at least six other people, all of them also suspected of plotting subversion in Jordan.

'Sabotage' Trial Disrupted

JN0509115295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Sep 95 , p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Seven people accused of sabotage appeared at the State Security Court Monday [4 September], but immediately disrupted courtroom activities by charging they did not believe in the court justice system.

When the defendants were called to the stand, they refused to come forward, saying "we are "Ansar Allah" (meaning "Supporters of God") [quotation marks as published] and rejected the appointment of lawyers to defend them.

Presiding Judge Hafiz Amin then expelled them from the courtroom.

The seven were part of a group of 13 men known as Bay'at al-Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), who were arrested before actually carrying out any offence.

The remaining six suspects, most of them under 30, were released on bail pending trial. But when they failed to appear in court on Monday morning, a new arrest warrant was issued by Judge Amin.

Three court appointed lawyers were named to defend the suspects. They are: Asma Khadir, Samih Husayni and Salih al-'Armuti.

The court set Sept. 24 as the date for the resumption of the trial.

According to sources who spoke to the Jordan Times last month, the group had "sub groups" which did not know of each other's existence.

The group followers believe only themselves to be the "true followers" of Islamic faith and do not attend mosque prayers or schools because they reject the entire system, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the trial of two suspects accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat last March will open today at the same court.

Salim 'Abdallah Jaradat and Ahmad Qassim, both 22, are accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gil Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy.

They will be formally charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possession of illegal arms and explosives.

According to the prosecutor charge sheet, the two suspects, a school messenger and a furniture shop

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assistant, made explosive devices and wanted to take over a tourist bus in southern Jordan, but were dissuaded by the presence of security guards around the vehicle. The two then fled.

Shortly afterwards, they came across Mr. Heine and his wife who had stopped their car at a scenic spot in Wad al-Mujib.

The suspects forced the couple to get into the car at gun point, the prosecution said.

Mr. Heine struggled with the assailants. A police patrol noticed the quarrel and came to the rescue, the document said adding that the suspects then shot the envoy in the chest and foot.

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PLO's Qaddumi, Buwayz Comment After Talks

NC0509131795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese-Palestinian talks between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, lasted two hours.

Afterward Buwayz said: We listened to a diagnosis of the current situation in occupied Palestine epitomized by Israel's aggression on the land and people there, its expansion of the settlements, and the security and political restrictions imposed on the [Palestinian] Authority there. Recalling Lebanon's stance when the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed, Buwayz said: We made some observations then. We said we would not sloganeer against the Palestinian people and their leadership but we warn that the agreement does not clearly express the whole Palestinian political spectrum and the rights of three-quarters of the Palestinian people.

Qaddumi described the Palestinian issue as a pan-Arab one. He said we have a common destiny and we must make use of all these experiences. He added: We stated reservations about the Oslo accord from the beginning and drew attention to the gravity of some clauses in the agreement. But we gave some people a chance to become convinced. He added: We are convinced that Israel does not want peace.

[Begin Qaddumi recording] We are pursuing a path that has frankly and clearly led to the conclusion that Israel does not adhere to anything. We call for halting these political talks, which are not political. They are futile talks, which will regrettably harm the Palestinian people and other Arab parties. [end recording]

Al-Hariri Leaves for Talks With Birri in Damascus

NC0509163795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam will host a meeting this evening or tomorrow between Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri following a 13-day hiatus that was marked by differences in views.

Speaker Birri, who has been in Damascus since yesterday, has met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in the presence Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi. During their lengthy meeting, they had a comprehensive and in-depth discussion of the situation in Lebanon and the recent Israeli escalation. They also reviewed the situation in the region, particularly developments in Iraq and as well as the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Hariri left for Damascus at 1700 with an open heart, as he told reporters as he left Government House. He stressed that he is travelling to Damascus with a positive attitude and a desire to rise above vituperations and stay clear of anything that may harm the country's interests. Noting that he has no problem with anybody, al-Hariri added: Questions regarding the presidential election must be settled to avoid any disputes, particularly since it is my opinion and the opinion of all people that the reason for what is happening is the presidential election.

Israeli Overnight Military Activities Reported

NC0609063195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Severe tension is gripping the south areas near the occupied border strip following continuing Israeli attacks. Sporadic bombardment of the south continued throughout last night. The Israeli forces bombarded the areas of Wadi al-Saluqi, al-Nafkhah, and the outskirts of Majdal Zun, Zibqin, Tulin, and Qabrikha. The shelling reached the outskirts of Bra'shit and Haddatha.

A short time ago Qasim Safa, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tyre, reported: The Israeli forces closed the Majdal Zun road last night and directed heavy machine-gun fire at the outskirts of the village from their positions in Tallat al-Hirdawn. The Israeli forces directed fire at the road from their positions in the Dayr Harfa-al-Rujmayn triangle. The valleys and woods near the villages of Zibqin and Majdal Zun, particularly the Wadi al-Nafkhah, Wadi Basin, and Wadi Maryamin near Yatar in the western sector, came under heavy machine-gun fire. Israeli helicopters flew over these areas throughout last night and dropped flares.

According to security sources, Israeli vehicles were spotted moving in the al-Bayyad area. In the central sector the outskirts of Shaqra came under 82-mm mortar and machine-gun fire at dawn today from the enemy positions in Hula. The Israeli forces in the hills of Haddatha and Bra'shit raked the outskirts of Tibnin, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Bra'shit.

The naval blockade of the south coast is continuing. Israeli gunboats opened indiscriminate fire in the direction of fishermen's boats south of Tyre at dawn today. The naval blockade began in March.

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Leadership 'Unhappy' With U.S. Stance on Saddam

MM0609090795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Syria Deploys Additional Forces on Its Border With Iraq" — punctuation as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Western diplomatic sources said yesterday that Syria has deployed additional forces along its border with Iraq "in anticipation of any military operations associated with the toppling of the Iraqi regime."

The sources disclosed to AL-HAYAH that the Syrian leadership "is unhappy with the U.S. response to the idea of toppling the Iraqi regime" in the wake of the defection to Jordan of President Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law.

The sources pointed out that Syria "has tried over the past four years to persuade Washington to coordinate with it to topple the Iraqi regime, but to no avail."

The sources said that Syria "wanted the regime in Iraq to be replaced through cooperation with it and in a manner that would reinforce its regional standing and role," saying that "toppling the regime through a Jordanian-Gulf-U.S. initiative would threaten it (Syria) with further isolation in the region."

The diplomatic sources in Amman pointed out that Damascus refused to receive General Husayn Kamil, who called for the coordination of efforts with the Syrian leadership and Iraqi opposition leaders in Damascus. He also expressed his wish to visit Syria.

The sources said that "the decision to suspend negotiations between Israel and Syria was an Israeli-U.S. decision rather than a Syrian decision."

The sources said that a tendency inside the U.S. State Department calling for Syria to be isolated and left outside the scope of U.S.-regional contacts has been able to impose its opinion on the tendency calling for including Syria in these contacts.

The sources said that Syria's position on Washington's call for toppling the Iraqi regime "reinforces the new policy toward Damascus."

In London (AL-HAYAH), Kurdish sources have confirmed the report of the Syrian forces' deployment, saying that the area in which the troops have been deployed is Faysh Khabur.

Radio: Israel's Jerusalem Celebrations 'Farce'

JN0509150895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 5 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: To emphasize its disregard for the peace process and its foundations and in clear defiance of the feelings of Arabs, Muslims, and Christians, Israel opened what it called celebrations marking the 3,000th anniversary of the establishment of David's Kingdom in Jerusalem. This allegation is refuted by historical facts. The Kingdom was proclaimed in the suburbs of Jerusalem and not in the city itself. It collapsed after only a short period of time. World countries — spearheaded by the EU countries — boycotted and rejected any form of participation in the celebrations. Israeli officials, however, were quick to make provocative statements regarding their final seizure of the holy city, thus denying the Arabs any right to it and insulting both Arabs and Christians. They said that Jerusalem is the heart of Judaism and that it will remain Israel's eternal capital. Here, we do not want to refute the Zionist allegations, because historical facts are crystal clear and unmistakably show that Jerusalem has never been a Jewish city.

Here, we seek only to underline the ugliest manifestation of the Israeli arrogance. Israel not only violated the Security Council resolutions and eschewed the requirements of peace, but also sought to involve the international community in this farce and to impose the fait accompli on the entire world. Had foreign countries been dragged into the trap, Israel would have later exploited this participation and considered it a recognition of the new facts, that is, the annexation of Jerusalem, its separation from its Arab surroundings, and obliteration of its historical and cultural identity.

As is known, the Security Council adopted Resolutions 242 and 338 calling on Israel to withdraw its troops from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. As is also known, the Security Council later adopted a resolution canceling the annexation of Jerusalem and urging Israel not to tamper with the occupied Arab territories, alter their characteristics, or erect settlements therein.

The U.S. peace initiative was based on these two resolutions and on the land-for-peace principle. However, Israel paid no heed to the peace process nor to its foundations. It forged ahead with its policies and practices that are hostile to peace in terms of form and substance and refused to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories under various pretexts, including that of security.

Moreover, Israel did not even respect the Oslo agreement although it dictated its terms on the Palestinians. It

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violated the provisions of this agreement day in, day out. While the agreement provides that the Jerusalem issue should be addressed in the final stage of negotiations, Israel embarked on a large-scale settlement campaign immediately after the conclusion of this agreement. It also confiscated more Palestinian land, disrupted the demographic status of the occupied Arab city, separated it from the West Bank, denied Palestinians access to it, and closed down Palestinian establishments based there. Today, Israel is celebrating its final takeover of Jerusalem before the eyes of the world, in clear disregard for all international principles and charters.

The peace process is now in danger now that Israel has succeeded in derailing it from its track and goals and totally blocking it. What is going on in the occupied Arab territories is in no way related to peace and does not help peace efforts take a single step forward. The peace process is obstructed on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and there are no signs that it will move forward, given Israel's insistence on dealing with it outside the framework of Security Council resolutions and the foundations agreed on in Madrid. These developments behoove all concerned parties which sponsored the peace process and committed themselves to implementing Security Council resolutions, to salvage it and return things to normal before the peace process becomes a thing of the past.

Tunisia's Yahia Conveys Message to al-Asad

JN0509183895 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia at 1100 today. The audience was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Tunisian Ambassador in Damascus Salaheddine (al-Jammali).

Ben Yahia conveyed to the president a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The president asked Ben Yahia to convey a reply message.

Discussions dealt with the situation and developments in the Arab arena, the peace process and its present status resulting from the Israeli policy which is far from the resolutions of international legitimacy. The two sides stressed the need for improving the situation in the Arab arena and for Arab cooperation to safeguard the pan-Arab interest of the Arab nation. Talks also dealt with bilateral relations.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the Tunisian foreign minister and his accompanying delegation at 1730 today. The meeting was attended by the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus. The two sides discussed developments in the region and relations between the two sisterly countries.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also received the Tunisian foreign minister and his accompanying delegation at 1845 today. The audience was attended by the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus. Ben Yahia conveyed the greetings of Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who asked Ben Yahia to convey his greetings to Karoui. Talks dealt with relations between the two sisterly countries.

Government Allocates Funds to Industrial Firms

JN0509162195 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 30 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Awad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — The Prime Ministry has allocated the sum of $9.321 million in favor of several industrial companies belonging to the Ministry of Industry to help them implement their productive and investment plans.

The Damascus Cables Company received $3 million from the Export Encouragement Fund, the Detergents Company $1.472 million for a new sulfate production line from the Oil Fund, the Aleppo Dye Company $1.14 million for the importation of hides and chemical materials, the State Company for Cables Industries $1.685 for the purchase of 500 tonnes of electric copper wire from the Greek company Flofur [as transliterated], the Barada Company $566,000, the State Organization for Textile Industries $700,000, and the Syrian Cement Company $752,000.

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Afghanistan

Ministry Protests Pakistani Visit to Rebel's Base

LD0309182095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic State of Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has submitted an official note to Pakistan about the visit by a group of that country's technicians to Mazar-e Sharif [warlord Dostam's northern base]. A ministry source told BAKHTAR that the note, handed to [name indistinct], charge d'affaires at Pakistan's embassy in Kabul, by 'Abdol Satar Morad, head of the first political department, states: Dispatching the delegation is a blatant breach of the principle of contacts between independent sovereign states through central governments and has damaged the optimism which had developed after the friendly visit of Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Pakistan minister of foreign affairs, regarding the improvement of relation between the two countries. The foreign ministry note adds: Sending Pakistani technicians to Mazar-e Sharif without the agreement and permission of the relevant Afghan authorities in Kabul is against friendly relations between the two states as well as interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. [passage indistinct]

Minister Sends Letter to UN on 'Pakistani Interference'

LD0509202495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Sep 95

[Message from Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on "Pakistani interference" in Afghanistan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency Butrus Butrus-Ghali, secretary general of UN, After expressing my good wishes, on behalf of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], I would like to inform you that foreign interference, especially the meddling of Pakistan, in the internal affairs of Afghanistan has reached a dangerous zenith, and there is a fear that the fire of fighting will spread beyond Afghanistan's borders, and will uncontrollably intensify and threaten peace in the region if responsible international forums including the UN security council fails to take serious and effective measures about the current situation. As a longstanding and loyal member of the United Nations, the Islamic State of Afghanistan has always tried through diplomatic channels to prevent the deterioration of the situation by scrupulous observation of this organization's principles and within the limits of Afghanistan's vital interests. The ISA has repeatedly emphasized the peaceful solution of the war in the country through cooperation with the UN and OIC. Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan, Pakistan has, regretfully, taken the war in Afghanistan to a new high through various political and military tricks, and has assisted its puppets, Taleban, with men and equipment to dominate parts of western Afghanistan.

We emphatically asked you to take practical [word indistinct] before the current fighting reaches a new dimension, and to positively respond to the wishes of millions of Afghans who live in an inferno by your initiative.

We ask your excellency to, using UN influence, oblige Pakistan to refrain from such an open interference. The ISA considers it its national and historic duty to abort, decisively and steadfastly, at any possible price the foreign circles attempts that may lead to the disintegration of Afghanistan. The ISA is giving an ultimatum about taking any action and stance in the future as regards the protection of Afghanistan's territorial integrity, national sovereignty and independence, and asks that this letter shall be circulated as security council's official document.

Radio Claims Pakistan Involved in Herat Fighting

LD0509163195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's armed militia, with assistance from the hireling Taleban, have disrupted the situation in the western provinces of the country over the past three days. According to a report by BAKHTAR, over the recent week Pakistan's armed militia started an offensive from Quetta [provincial capital of Baluchistan] in the direction of Kandahar, and attacked the provinces of Herat and Farah in the name Taleban but under the command of Pakistani generals. Pakistani militia's attacks were accompanied by air strikes by planes taking off from Quetta. The attacks led to disruption in Farah and Herat provinces.

The offensive was led by General Imam and Major Gul, members of Pakistani intelligence, Pakistani ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] and dozens of other Pakistani militia. Mojahedin resistance against the lackeys continues.

Commentator Warns Pakistan Against Backing Taleban

LD0509214395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Sep 95

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's open and secret interference since the victory of the Islamic revolution

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has now turned into open armed aggression in the guise of the Taleban band whose backbone is military officers of Pakistan. This group, controlled by Major Imam and Major Gul, two officer of Pakistan's ISI [Inter Services Intelligence], has over the past few days mounted quick attacks in the west of the country to eliminate state control in the area, and thus has faced our heroic nation with an aggression and bloodshed. Once again our nation faces another test of defending the freedom of the country and the Islam. And the world sees how blatantly interference in the internal affairs of a country takes place, and the voice of the defense of freedom and of the sacred religion of Islam angers Pakistan. The Afghans still remember 27 December 1979 and have not forgotten the bitter memories of the previous aggression. As in the past the Afghan nation is determined to defend Islam and its honor and freedom. Pakistani leaders must know that their fate will be no better than that of the Soviet Union and their agents. While it is informing the world about the situation that is taking place in the west of Afghanistan, the Islamic State of Afghanistan warns the aggressors that no act will escape punishment in this country. Those who make fire in our country must know that this fire will burn them too.

Protesters Set Fire to Pakistan Embassy; 3 Injured

BK0609072695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Sept 6 (AFP) — Hundreds of demonstrators attacked the Pakistan embassy in Kabul on Wednesday [6 September] seriously injuring three staff and leaving the building a smouldering wreck, witnesses said.

The attack came one day after the Afghanistan government accused Pakistan of financing and training the Taleban Islamic militia that has made stunning gains from government forces in western Afghanistan.

More than 1,000 people chanting slogans against Pakistan, stormed the building, witnesses. They destroyed furniture and other equipment before setting the building alight.

Coloumns of smoke billowed from the British-built mission which the witnesess said was "completely gutted."

Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani accused Pakistan of giving military support to the Taleban who have captured key Afghan provinces in western Afghanistan in recent attacks.

Pakistan has denied the charge.

Russian Technicians, 10 MiGs Arrive at Air Base

LD0309154295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As many as 10 MiG-29 airplanes and 80 Russian technicians have arrived in Shindand airbase [in western province of Farah]. According to an authentic report Radio Message of Freedom has received through Hezb-e Eslamic [Islamic Party] sources, the technicians will be repairing damaged airplanes based in the airport. They are there to play an effective role in all sections of the coalition administration's air force. The report adds that [words indistinct] and Russian troops are considering a commando operation to release the Il-76 crew who are in detention in Kandahar.

Russian Delegation To Negotiate Release of Airmen

LD0309093795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0950 GMT 3 Sep 95

[By Viktor Lebedev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] EL KUWAIT September 3 (Itar-Tass) — A Russian delegation left Sharja, United Arab Emirates, for Afghan province Qandahar today to continue negotiations with Taleban militia on release of seven crewmen of the Russian Il-76 plane which was seized a month ago.

The delegation is led by Timur Akulov, head of the foreign relations department of the president of Tatarstan, Russia's component state, to whose air company the plane belongs.

On demand of the Taleban group, the negotiations will be attended by two representatives of the U.N. and a delegate of the Organisation of Islamic Conference,

The Russian delegation includes Khazrat Galliulin, Mufti of Tatarstan, Zamir Kabulov, adviser of the Russian embassy in Islamabad, and Bronislav Iskhakov, director general of Tatarstan's air company Aerostan.

The delegation is accompanied by Russian reporters.

Kabulov said in an interview with Itar-Tass before the departure that the Russian airmen, kept in a guest house of Qandahar's governor, are waiting to be helped out.

Pakistani officials make no efforts to assist the release of the Russian crew.

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Dostam Troops Claim Capture of Badghis Province

BK0509163795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Sept 5 (AFP)—The Uzbek militia of former communist general 'Abdol Rashid Dostam captured Badghis province Tuesday [5 September], hours after the fall of the key Afghan city of Herat to the forces of the Taleban religious movement, a spokesman for Dostam said here.

"The capture of Badghis became easier after the fall of Herat," said Sebghatollah Zaki, a representative of Dostam's National Movement in Islamabad. He said the province's defence was weakened after forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani deserted Herat governor Isma'il Khan.

Zaki said anti-Rabbani forces now control the entire western region up to the Turkmenistan border.

But Rabbani's spokesman in Kabul had earlier denied that Badghis fell.

Zaki said there was a possibility of military cooperation between the Taleban religious students' militia and Dostam forces, which are already allied with Rabbani's adversary Golboddin Hekmatyar, whose troops are fighting in eastern Sarobi district.

Zaki said 'Abdolrazaq Turkistani, a close aide of Dostam, was to have a meeting with Taleban leaders in Peshawar in Pakistan late Tuesday.

Both Taleban and Dostam have the same target, he said, adding that "we want to replace" Rabbani's administration by a government "to protect the rights of all Afghan nations.

India

Pakistan Said Possibly Involved in Punjab Blast

BK0309132695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says the assassination of the former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh might be the result of a serious security lapse. In an interview to a video news magazine, Mr. Pilot did not rule out the possibility of Pakistan being behind the heinous act. Answering a question, he said security guidelines were not followed and somebody inside the inner security circles seems to have helped the militants.

The workers of the Shiromani Akali Dal, Master Tara Singh group, today held a demonstration near the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi. They were protesting against Islamabad's attempt to spread terrorism and subversion in India. Addressing the demonstrators, the party president, Mr. Rachpal Singh, warned Pakistan of dire consequences is it does not stop its nefarious activities against India.

'Key Suspects' in Punjab Bomb Blast Said Arrested

BK0509125895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chandigarh police today achieved a major breakthrough by arresting two key suspects involved in the bomb blast in which the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, and 15 others were killed last Thursday [31 August]. Disclosing this at a press conference in Chandigarh this evening, the inspector general of police, Mr. Y.S. Dhadwal, said two others are absconding and the fifth one, who was the human bomb, was killed in the blast.

Mr. Dhadwal said the youth in police uniform carried the bomb around his belt and triggered it when he approached the chief minister. About the arrested persons, Mr. Dhadwal said one is a polytechnic engineer, who helped in the manufacture of the bomb, and the other helped in repainting the car in Chandigarh, which was earlier bought in Delhi. He said one of the two absconders is a Punjab government employee, but he clarified that none of the five accused is from the chief minister secretariat.

Contact Continues With Foreign Tourist Kidnappers

Spokesman Addresses 'Deadline'

BK0109150495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the authorities continue to remain in contact with the abductors of four foreign tourists through intermediaries. Efforts are on to persuade the militants to release the innocent tourists without any further delay.

An official spokesman said in Srinagar that the abductors have fixed no deadline for meeting their demands and the foreign tourists are reported to be safe. The spokesman said that some embassy officials and diplomats of the countries of the abducted persons are in Srinagar, but security forces of no foreign countries are in the Kashmir valley in connection with the hostage crisis.

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AFP Reports on 2 Sep Contact

BK0209092295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0643 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 2 (AFP) — Indian officials on Saturday [2 September] established radio contact with the Muslim captors of four Western hostages being held in Kashmir, but it remained unclear when the two-month kidnap drama would end.

A Kashmir government official spoke for about 10 minutes over "a wireless set" with the abductors, who are believed to be based in the mountains around the resort of Pahalgam where the Westerners were seized in early July.

Details of the conversation were not available, but police sources said further radio contact would be made later Saturday.

The militant Al-Faran group, which is holding two Britons, an American and a German, is reportedly insisting on the early release of 15 of its jailed colleagues in exchange for the foreigners.

"Al-Faran wants the government to take an early decision, one way or the other," an official said. Police said the captors had not however set any deadline.

Al-Faran seized Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, German Dirk Hasert, 26, and American Donald Hutchings, 42, between July 4 and 8 in Pahalgam while they were trekking.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was murdered by the kidnappers in early August after the government failed to respond to a deadline to release 15 Muslim militants being held in Indian jails.

Authorities meanwhile clamped a curfew in the southern Kashmir town of Anantnag and ordered troops to shoot violators on sight to foil planned anti-Indian protests, but they lifted the restriction hours later.

The curfew was imposed to prevent street demonstrations that were to have been led by prominent Kashmiri Muslim leader Shabir Shah, who lives in Srinagar, the northern state's summer capital.

Troops went around Anantnag, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Pahalgam, announcing the curfew over loudhailers, police said.

"The curfew was lifted when we realised that Shah would go to Anantnag only on Sunday," a police officer said.

Shah told AFP here that he planned to visit Anantnag to bring to an end internecine clashes between Muslim militant groups in the town which is a known rebel stronghold.

"I will camp in Anantnag for three days," Shah said. "We shall organise demonstrations also to prove that Kashmiri people are not ready to take part in any elections which New Delhi plans to hold."

More than 12,000 people have died since 1989 in the Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Report Addresses Foreign Troop Presence in Kashmir

BK0509122695 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Manvendra Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Aug 30 — In a serious development, Lt General Surinder Singh, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Command is believed to have conveyed his desire to resign in protest against the induction of foreign soldiers in the Valley to deal with the hostage crisis. The US Army Delta Force, the British Army Special Air Service and the German Border Police GSG-9 personnel have been present in the Kashmir Valley much against the wishes of the Army which believes it to be a whittling away of Indian sovereignty.

Lt Gen Surinder Singh is also learnt to have expressed his misgivings about the attitude of the State Governor, Gen K V Krishna Rao, who has refused to consider the viewpoint of the Army on how to deal with the crises that have periodically appeared.

The resignation has not as yet been accepted. And Lt Gen Surinder is understood to be under pressure to withdraw his offer to resign, according to sources in the Ministry of Defence. Lt Gen Surinder's offer to step down is believed to have been discussed at an unscheduled meeting late in the evening today between the Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff, according to sources in the PMO [Prime Minister's Office].

The provocation for this dramatic move which comes as a severe blow to the Government's policy over the conduct of matters in Kashmir is believed to have been the systematic whittling away of the Indian Army's role to that of a veritable spectator. From ever since the Hazratbal crisis in October 1993, then to the manner in which the Army had to once again provide a cordon at Charar Sharif and also face the full brunt of the fallout, and to finally culminating in the arrival of the foreign soldiers. 'It is always the same, we proved the cannon

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fodder and the militants are allowed to get away. On top of that now you have foreign soldiers here to teach us our job', said an agitated officer.

Incidentally, Lt Gen Surinder Singh had assumed charge of what is India's only operational command with a war being fought in Siachen and a proxy one in the Kashmir Valley weeks prior to the Hazratbal crisis and has reportedly been sore at the remote control handling of, Kashmir ever since.

Described as a true-blue soldier by Army sources, Lt Gen Surinder Singh "appears to have reached the end of his tether", as an officer said. This feeling has been echoed by a number of officers and jawans [soldiers] who feel sore at the dilution of India's sovereignty by the handling of matters in Kashmir.

Official circles, however, denied any knowledge of this major development. They, however conceded the point that there may be differences of perception between the civilian authorities and the Army over the hostage crisis. "But the Government has to weigh the diplomatic and the international dimensions of this delicate situation", said an official.

The officials denied that the foreign soldiers were conducting the operations in the Valley in any manner. "They are working with their missions", said the official. This nevertheless does not detract from the fact that Army has serious misgivings about their presence in the Valley. "When we have never allowed them to visit our high-altitude training schools, we now let them see us operating", said an officer describing the Army's predicament.

'Afghan Militants' Reportedly Surrender in Kashmir

BK0309064395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, two Afghan militants who had infiltrated from across the border surrendered to the Army jawans [soldiers] with some arms and ammunition soon after they entered the Indian territory. Giving details of the incident, an Army spokesman said in Srinagar today that the Army jawans on noticing a group of six infiltrators in the Naugam challenged them. While two of the militants surrendered, four others ran back into the Pakistan-occupied territory. The surrendered militants told Army authorities that they were forced by the Pakistani ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] to come to the valley.

IAF, UAE Said Seeking Military Cooperation

BK0409164995 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Aug. 29—The Indian Air Force [IAF] is exploring the possibility of entering into a long-term contract with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to train their fighter and transport pilots, besides providing them with maintenance facility for the MiG-29 and Mirage-2000 aircraft which the latter is going to acquire shortly.

The IAF has been training fighter pilots of many a developing country, besides having bagged overhauling and repairs contract from Malaysian Air Force. If the deal come through with the UAE, it will be the first time that it will be training pilots for IL-76 transport aircraft besides undertaking hi-tech maintenance of Mirage fighters. In the latter case, India has nearly achieved 100 per cent indigenisation recently.

The Emirates have a fleet of giant-sized transport aircraft IL- 76, which till date are being flown by Russian pilots but the country is seeking New Delhi's help to train their own set of flight commanders.

The UAE is also looking for a wider air-to-air cooperation with IAF that would include maintenance of their machines in India.

Currently a seven-member team from Emirates is visiting India to plan out details of the areas of cooperation. The delegation is headed by Brig Hayyi Zuma Al-Hamilli, Director Operation of the three Defence Services of the UAE.

The event is a prelude to the visit of Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Shaykh Khalifa Bin-Zayid, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE's armed forces and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, sometime later this year.

Brig Zuma Al-Hamilli has come here with a message from Shaykh Zayed-Bin-Sultan Al-Nahayyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces in the UAE.

The visiting dignitary today called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal S. K. Kaul, at whose invitation he is here, besides having a wide ranging discussions with Assistant Chiefs of the Air Staff of planning and acquisition and engineering.

The delegation is scheduled to visit Air Force Academy, Hyderabad, the Mirage unit at Gwalior, the Hindon Air Force base near Delhi, the para-Training School and the transport base for IL- 76 and AN-32 at Agra during its week-long visit here. The team is also billed to visit the

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Bangalore facilities of the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).

The UAE's emphasis on updating its armed forces comes in view of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait three-and-a-half years ago. The country has in the recent past projected the need to go in for ten Mirage- 2000C with RDM radar facility besides a squadron each of the most- modern multirole Mirage-2000-5 and MiG-29 interceptors.

Interestingly the Emirates is also evaluating Su-25, Su-27, Su-30 and latest state-of-the-art bomber Su-35.

Sources in the Ministry of Defence said overhauling of MiG-29 aircraft and training of its pilots is to be on line with the recent contract with Malaysia while modalities for training of transport pilots and maintenance of the Mirage-2000 are likely to be discussed when Gen Shaykh Khalifa Bin-Zayid visits India before the year end.

Daily on Joint Asian Project for Passenger Plane

BK0309063795 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 29 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Toward Asian Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There could have been border disputes between India and China with their history full of wars and strife; there could have been serious ideological confrontations between China and South Korea due to their respective adherence to the norms of communism and capitalism, but today's reality for all three countries is their determination to manufacture jointly a 100-seater passenger plane whose production thus far had been monopolized by Western countries. Today this event might appear as an ordinary business achievement, but beneath it lies the hidden thought process that eventually brought about the concept of the "South-South Cooperation." There is no difference of opinion about the rich countries looking contemptuously at third world countries or at developing countries, and whenever these countries speak or try to achieve mutual self-dependence, the rich countries deem to show their poor counterparts some special favor. Rich countries never seem to strike a logical balance between the two sides with any human consideration. Not only this, they often vent their jealousy whenever the third world makes any progress. Looking at their rich counterparts' callous and selfish attitude it was necessary for third world countries — including the newly-industrialized nations and other developing countries — to come together and seek a path of mutual cooperation. The Harare Nonaligned Movement conference in 1988 decided to set up a commission to promote South-South cooperation. Although the commission admitted that it has not achieved anything great so far, yet reports released by the commission reveal a conspiracy of the chosen few rich countries that want the entire world to remain their slave — not only in the fields of defense, trade and technology but also in literary and cultural spheres. They use all kinds of manipulations to maintain Western, especially U.S. supremacy in these fields. It is a matter of some gratification that a common awareness is emerging in parallel organizations like ASEAN and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] that if cooperation among them is not strengthened, a few rich countries would usurp their rightful share in trade by making them fight among themselves. In light of this awareness the agreement signed by India, China and South Korea deserves many kudos. So far only Indonesia in this part of the world could successfully manufacture a 40-seater plane of this kind. Most of the countries depend on Boeing for large planes. Europe and the United States are quite capable in this field, and that is why they dominate the world. This is just an example of one requirement. There are innumerable items for which we have to depend on the favor of the rich countries. No doubt we have made significant progress in the military field such as missiles, bombers, and frigates, as well as nuclear technology. However, we lag behind in the trade sphere allowing the rich countries to continue exploiting us, third world countries. Production of this type of plane will cost around $2000 million, which will have to be shared by India, China and South Korea in a 30:30:40 ratio respectively. They are still seeking a Western partner to obtain the engine. Most certainly if they continue developing mutual cooperation in this spirit, it is hoped that in the field of high technology they will also progressively reduce their dependence on the West. Nevertheless whatever they achieve now shall be an important landmark in the history of Asian aviation. It is essential for them to develop Asian self-sufficiency. Western countries, especially the United States, must realize that should the third world countries resolutely decide to combine their efforts, they can easily defy and deride their (rich countries') hegemony. We can also hope that this third world unity in the professional sector will also gradually unfurl an ideological belief which will guide the newly industrialized countries of Asia to a golden path of forging political-cultural solidarity to achieve self-sufficiency and proficiency in all spheres. This manifestation of unity in the skies is also expected to breed a similar solidarity on the ground.

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Agreement on Coal Sector Said Signed With Germany

BK0509152495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Germany today signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation in the coal sector. Under the agreement, both countries will identify new projects suitable for financial and technological help from German companies. The protocol was signed by the coal secretary, Mr. N.P. Modi, and his German counterpart, Dr. G. Brandes, at the conclusion of the India-German Working Group meeting in New Delhi. Most of the projects being undertaken currently with German help have made significant progress. Coal Ministry sources said, however, expansion of the Neyveli lignite mine could not be finalized, and further discussions on this issue are planned.

Kashmir Activist To Attend UN Conference on Women

BK0309124395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan—controlled Kashmir, Sept 3 (AFP) — Kashmiri women's activist, Nasima Dar, left for China Sunday [3 September] to attend the UN conference on women in Beijing where she will highlight the plight of Kashmiri women, a militant party here said.

Dar, a member of the separatist movement which is fighting in the Indian controlled part of Kashmir, has been sent by the All Parties Hurriat Conference (APHC) to the conference, Mahmood Sagher, APHC convener here said.

A medical doctor, Dar said she would highlight the "atrocities being perpetrated on the unarmed Kashmiri women in the Indian-held Kashmir."

Before leaving for Beijing, she said Kashmir women were subjected to "molestation, torture and gang rape at the hands of Indian forces," battling a five-year cessation movement.

Since 1989, "some 5,000 Kashmiri women have suffered rape, and gang-rape," she alleged, adding that many either committed suicide or had gone insane because of "humiliation."

Dar is not a member of the Pakistani delegation which is led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Separately, five women members of the Kashmiri state assembly here criticised the Pakistan Government for not including Kashmiri women on the official delegation.

They also expressed "shock" that the UN Secretariate did not invite Kashmiri women who were the "worst target of state terrorism."

The separatist movement in Indian-controlled Kashmir has so far claimed more than 12,000 lives. India accuses Pakistan of fomenting the insurgency in Kashmir.

Pakistan denies the charge but justifies the movement as the legitimate struggle of Kashmiris for their right to self- determination.

The two mutually hostile countries have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir, which is claimed by both.

Tibetan Women Protest UN Conference in Beijing

BK0409080095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, Sept 4 (AFP) — About 100 wailing Tibetan women braved a downpour to stage a noisy and emotional protest at the united Nations office here against the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women which opened in Beijing on Monday [4 September].

Indian paramilitary women troops pushed back the demonstrators when they tried to forcibly enter the UN office through its locked gates. But the protestors, drenched by the heavy rain, gave up their bid shortly afterwards.

The protestors, dressed in traditional Tibetan dress, also wept openly and beat their chests while screaming anti-Chinese slogans outside the UN office, police and witnesses said.

The Tibetans, including dozens of young girls, shouted slogans such as "we need justice," "the Beijing conference is a joke" and "UN, don't ignore Tibetan women's voice."

Some waved Tibetan flags, while others waved placards scrawled with anti-Chinese slogans. One women fainted during the 30-minute demonstration that brought road traffic to a halt in the area.

A spokeswoman for the protestors said Tibetans were determined to fight for independence from China.

"We will never stop our fight for freedom," the spokeswoman said. "This women's conference in Beijing is a sham. On the one hand China does not give us our rights but pretends to champion the cause of world women."

"The entire world should see through the Chinese game," she added.

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Hundreds of Indians stopped to see the demonstration which ended peacefully.

More than 100,000 Tibetan exiles live in India, which is also home to the Dalai Lama, who heads a government-in-exile in the hill town of Dharamsala. The Tibetan god-king fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed anti-Chinese uprising.

Defense Group Said To Focus on 'Large' Programs

BK0609093995 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 29 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a major policy shift, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has decided to shut down 618 small and medium projects and instead concentrate on large endeavours like the missile and aircraft programmes.

The project cancellations which started out due to budgetary cuts since 1989, leaving only 371 projects for its 40 laboratories, have now been formalised into a policy where only weapons related and critically important projects will be taken up by the DRDO.

Smaller programmes, not of strategic or tactical importance, will be farmed out to research institutions, public sector undertakings and even private companies. "We want DRDO to channel its research talent on major projects which for strategic reasons cannot be contracted out to anybody else.

The integrated missile programme, the light combat aircraft (LCA), the integrated electronic warfare project, the laser weapons project and the Arjun tank are among those which will remain with DRDO", said a defence ministry official.

An order of priorities has been drawn up based on user requirements. Defence services needing a particular weapon or system has been given first priority, technological support for upgradation or alteration receives second priority and exploratory research which can be done on a long term basis has been assigned third priority.

The first priority work will be performed by DRDO labs, while the second and third can be farmed out to outside agencies.

An internal report has found that DRDO labs have been burdened with too many low-end projects affecting the performance of major programmes. Future project sanctions should be based on feasibility study which is to include long term benefits from the a particular project.

The manner in which substantial number of projects have been shut down has drawn flak from the parliamentary standing committee on defence which said in its fifth report, "the very fact that over 600 projects could be dropped showed that they were taken up in a rather indiscriminate fashion".

Giving reasons for taking up so many projects and then dropping them after incurring expenditure, the DRDO has said the projects were taken up based on threat perception and technology available with potential adversaries. "When the enemy upgrades his technology, the matching DRDO project is put on the backburner."

DRDO has sought a hike in budgetary resources in view of major projects like LCA, missile and Arjun reaching fruitation stage within the next two years.

From its 1994-95 allocation of Rs [rupees] 1185 crore, a hike of Rs 191 crore has been sought due the planned LCA flight during 1996, induction of Prithvi and Trishul missiles and a new Sonar system for ship control.

While the allocation for DRDO as a percentage of the defence budget has gone up from 2.6 per cent in 1984-85 to 5 per cent in 1994-95, the defence ministry maintains that funding for actual research and development work has declined over the years with wages and establishment expenses taking up the bulk of the funds.

Radio on Development of Radar-Jamming Equipment

BK0109053395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO, is developing electronic warfare equipment which can jam enemy radar and confuse enemy communications. According to defense sources, the equipment is part of the project named Sanyukta undertaken by the DRDO on behalf of the Army.

Uttar Pradesh Minister Seen Moving Towards BJP

95ASO474A Varanasi AJ in Hindi 10 Aug p 6

[Article by Udayan Sharma: "BJP is Happy with Mayawati, BSP Unhappy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a fascinating government at work in Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister Mrs. Mayawati has assured that her government will do everything to protect the Gyanvapi Masjid (in Varanasi) and the Shahi Masjid (in Mathura). In Uttar Pradesh, nowadays, the government is going through a strange pseudo wrestling contest to complete this promise. Without going into the details of this pseudo contest,

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it is sufficient to say that in this game of power, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] is lying to its cadres and Mrs. Mayawati is doing the same to the workers of her party, the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP]. Mrs. Mayawati has claimed that there are no differences between the BSP and the BJP when it comes to protecting these Masjids. Mrs. Mayawati, while talking to journalists in Lucknow, made this amusing comment. She said that the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party have told her that Kashi (Varanasi) and Mathura are not on their agenda and that the BJP has nothing to do with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal when it comes to Kashi or Mathura. It is either an act of political dishonesty or Naivete to believe the BJP and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal or the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. It is the same as if Congressmen were to say we have nothing to do with Youth Congress, or women's Congress or with the [Congress (I) financed] National Herald.

Mrs. Mayawati's method of operation creates the most unhappiness among BSP workers. Specifically the BSP legislators are very unhappy about the chief minister's love for the BJP. The BSP legislators and most of the important leaders have begun openly criticizing the chief minister's aggressive language and arrogant nature. They believe that the chief minister does neither listen to anyone's advice nor pay any attention to the administrative details. One of the highest officials has told this correspondent that her intentions are not good. This official is busy in New Delhi and is considered close to Mr. Kansi Ram. According to him, Mrs. Mayawati will split the BSP and take her group to the BJP if Mr. Kansi Ram does not place controls on her. He further says that Mr. Kansi Ram's residence is cordoned off by Mrs. Mayawati in the name of security so that no old, faithful friends (Of Mr. Kansi Ram) can see him.

In fact, Mrs. Mayawati imagines herself as the most capable and all powerful Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. She makes her decisions as she likes without consulting anyone. That is the reason, Mr. Ram Lakhan Verma is also upset about her. He has his own place in Kurmi [a caste prevelant in U.P.] society. Since the differences with Mr. Ramdeo Patel and Mr. Sonelal Patel, the BSP has only Mr. Ram Lakhan Verma on its side. In this situation, even Mr. Kansi Ram seems a bit confused. His principal advisors are telling him that Mrs. Mayawati consults with the BJP separately. However, Mr. Kansi Ram is not worried about that. His concern is that Mrs. Mayawati is not taking the party along. When some journalists asked about the increasing differences between Mr. Kansi Ram and Mrs. Mayawati, Mr. Jayant Malhotra, one of Mr. Kansi Ram's chief advisors and a close friend, indicated that as far as he knows there is no truth to this report, however, in politics, nothing is impossible.

The strategy of the Bharatiya Janata Party is predetermined and suitable for their purpose. The BJP wants to avoid a midterm election [in the U.P. state legislature]. Therefore the leaders of the BJP are operating with both Mrs. Mayawati and Mr. Ram Lakhan Verma. If Mrs. Mayawati does not move over to their side for the prize of the Chief ministership, then the BJP will look to the Kurmi leader Mr. Ram Lakhan Verma to bring him over, (into BJP), however their priority is for Mrs. Mayawati because she is taking their advice like a faithful chief minister. The BJP would like to see permanent relations with Mrs. Mayawati that is why the leadership of the BJP has asked her if she could set up a development program for the oppressed castes in all the BJP ruled (Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan) states. These BJP leaders have assured Mrs. Mayawati that all BJP governments will try to implement any program for the upliftment of the oppressed castes. Rajasthan Chief Minister Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was the first to request Mrs. Mayawati for such a program. He had promised Mrs. Mayawati in the installation ceremony of all BJP Chief ministers that they will implement the whole agenda of the BSP. In this connection the BJP leadership has promised Mrs. Mayawati that they are willing to improve the conditions for the oppressed caste laborers such as women whose children are going to school who would be given special permission to come two hours late to work (so that the children can attend the school.) The excitement in the Bharatiya Janata Party is not only because of the ease of behavior adopted by Mrs. Mayawati. She also controls the complete bureaucracy. Main policy decisions are being taken with the concurrence of the BJP. The BJP believes that this arrangement will benefit them not only in Uttar Pradesh, but will benefit them in the rest of India. This, though, is the same mistake Congress had made in 1990 and repeated in 1993-94. Establishing indirect control over the levers of power gives the workers of the supporting party a false sense of power. The (BJP) volunteer who was beaten by the police at the Gyanvapi Masjid will not understand that the BJP is allowing the beatings etc. in Varanasi as a long term strategy. He will think that the party for which he had gone to Kashi beat him up. The Chiman Bhai Patel government was supported by Congress in 1990. In the end Congress had to suffer the consequences of all the sins committed by the Chiman Bhai Government, however. The Bharatiya Janata Party can end up in a similar situation in Uttar Pradesh. The result of ill-defined and opportunistic politics could be that the BJP might get neither Maya (Mrs. Mayawati) nor Rama (Mr. Ram Lakhan Verma). Right now they

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have Maya in their hands but Rama is not under their command.

Iran

Afghan Groups Urged To Overcome 'U.S. Conspiracy'

NC0109162895 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Time To Stop Fratricide in Afghanistan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When the Afghan Islamic groups drove the Red Army from Afghanistan, Muslims throughout the world welcomed the move, considering it the end of bloodshed and the beginning of peace.

Unfortunately, in the aftermath of the evacuation of the Red Army, the Afghan Mojahedin, who used to fight the enemy shoulder-to-shoulder, turned into enemies because each group wanted more power.

Before the collapse of the former Soviet Union, civil strife was an extension of the Cold War. Each superpower wanted to install a proxy or lackey who would take care of its interests. Even the roots of regional conflicts could be traced to the antagonism of the two poles of the bipolar world order.

The policy of "divide and rule" worked well as long as colonial powers capitalized on local strife. As a result, the big powers sold arms and dictated terms to warring nations because they were reduced to their tools, remaining subservient to them in order to stay alive.

Since the dissipation of the Cold War, the United States has attempted to project itself as the only superpower. The White House has been grabbing every opportunity in order to instigate local conflict, promoting the sale of U.S. arms. Knowingly or unknowingly, the Afghan Mojahedin have been entrapped by the U.S. conspiracy, wasting their national wealth in a fratricidal war.

It is time for Afghan Mojahedin factions to heed the recent message of the Leader of the Islamic Republic, forbidding war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

Tomorrow will be too late.

Repatriation of Refugees Halted After City Capture

NC0509124095 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 5 (AFP)—Iran and the UNHCR Tuesday [5 September] halted the repatriation of Afghan refugees after the Taleban Islamic militia captured the northwestern provincial capital Herat, a UN official told AFP.

Tehran and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) "agreed jointly" to suspend the voluntary repatriation programme which has been going on for three years.

Almost a million Afghans who fled to Iran after the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet forces in 1979 have already returned to their homeland, half with the help of the UNHCR. But another 1.5 million are still in the country, according to official Iranian figures.

Herat is a transit point for the thousands of refugees leaving Iran each week, most of whom originally came from the western provinces of Afghanistan now under the control of the Taleban student militia.

The fall of Herat after the flight of pro-government forces was confirmed by members of several international aid organisations in the city and the Pakistani foreign office in Islamabad.

Iranian officials said Tuesday it would not allow Afghans fleeing the fighting to take refuge within its borders, the official IRNA news agency said.

Afghan Border Said Closed; Minister Warns Groups

LD0609110895 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — The latest developments on Iran-Afghanistan border areas were reviewed here Tuesday [5 September] in a meeting of borders headquarters chaired by Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

It was decided at the meeting that the Iran-Afghanistan joint border would be closed and movements controlled carefully through beefing up military and law-enforcement forces there.

Besharati termed the current problem of Afghanistan a domestic one adding that jihad groups should settle their own domestic problems through peaceful means.

The interior minister expressed hope the clashes would end as soon as possible and all Afghan jihad groups focus their potentials on reconstruction of their home country.

Reiterating Iran's impartiality with regards to Afghanistan issues, the interior minister stated all security and law- enforcement forces, while intensifying their control over joint borders, will carefully check movements on the borders.

Besharati warned all jihad groups in Afghanistan to refrain from approaching common borders under the pretext of chasing persons.

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Official Says No Refugees To Be Allowed Entry

LD0609154895 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — Director General of Interior Ministry's Department for Foreign National Affairs, Ahmad Hoseyni, said here Wednesday [6 September] that under the new policy of the Interior Ministry no refugee will be allowed into Iran.

Speaking to IRNA, Hoseyni said Iran will extend humanitarian aid to refugees in the neighboring countries and will provide assistance to refugees on border points under emergency conditions.

Commenting on rumors that residents of Herat are moving towards the Iranian border after the fall of the city into the hands of Talebans, he said Interior Ministry sealed off Iranian borders with Afghanistan since Tuesday. As a result, no Afghan national can enter the Iranian territory, he told IRNA.

As for a report that some Afghan refugees are being transferred from the Iranian northeastern town of Taibad to Mashhad, he said 631 Afghan refugees who were on their way to Afghanistan in accordance with a tripartite agreement among Iran, Afghanistan and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), were taken to Torbat-e Jam refugee camp because the prevailing situation in Afghanistan. However, they will return to their country once the situation returns to normal.

On repatriation of Afghan refugees, Hoseyni said that it has been halted for the time being due to the emergency situation in Afghanistan. He said the temporary residence permit of the Afghan refugees will not be extended. But, they will remain in the refugee camps until repatriation.

Afghan Group Warned Against Posing Border Threat

LD0609113495 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep. 6, IRNA— If Taleban is not a lackey of alien powers, it should immediately stop its fratricidal war and resort to peaceful means to find a solution to the national crisis, said TEHRAN TIMES daily here Wednesday [6 September].

Commenting on the recent developments in Afghanistan, i.e. seizure of the north provincial capital Herat by the Taleban group, the English-language paper wrote in its editorial that the new offensive of Taleban aside from being a disservice to the Afghan nation, was "mysterious and mistimed."

"After years of atrocities and crimes against the Bosnian Muslims, the international community had just come to its senses— the West decided to act in Bosnia— until today all eyes were on Bosnia and world public opinion had been following up the developments there. But all of a sudden, Taleban creates another crisis, diverting attention from the plight of the Bosnian people," argued the editorial.

It noted if Taleban did not halt its military offensive, it should bear in mind that its future activity should not pose the slightest threat to the security of Iran's eastern borders.

"Iran needs peace in order to improve relations with all its neighbors. Taleban must not jeopardize this peace," warned the paper.

'Offensive Articles' in Turkish Press Protested

NC0509153995 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 5 (AFP) — Moslem hardliners demonstrated outside the Turkish Embassy here Tuesday [5 September] to protest "offensive articles" published in Turkey about the founder of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

A large number of security personnel were deployed at the embassy as the protestors chanted anti-Turkish slogans and completed their noon prayers in front of the building.

In a statement they said the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET had published an article in July that offended Khomeyni's character.

While on their way to the Turkish Embassy, the demonstrators stopped before the nearby British Embassy to shout slogans against writer Salman Rushdie, condemned to death in February 1989 by Khomeyni for his book "The Satanic Versus."

Majles Speaker Meets With Hezbollah Official

LD3108192195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasan Rowhani, Supreme National Security Council secretary [and deputy Majles Speaker], considered the continuation of resistance in southern Lebanon as the only way to regain Lebanese lands occupied by the Zionist regime.

Mr. Rowhani, during a meeting with the Lebanese parliamentary group from the revolutionary Hezbollah movement in Tehran yesterday, described Hezbollah as a powerful and efficient force.

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Stressing the need for the expansion of the two sides' parliamentary relations, he briefed the Hezbollah delegation on the legislative procedures of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Omani Minister Arrives in Tehran for Visit

Expresses Satisfaction With Ties

LD0509103195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani state minister for foreign affairs, today arrived in Tehran for a two-day visit of our country. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Mehrabad airport.

In an interview with a central news unit correspondent, the Omani high-ranking official expressed satisfaction about the development of ties between the two countries and said Iran and Oman have always had friendly ties and consulted each other over the regional and international issues.

In reply to a question regarding the consequences of the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, he said: The countries of the region have certain interests that should be considered and any kind of cooperation should take form on the basis of agreement by all countries in the region.

Comments on Persian Gulf, UAE, Iraq

LD0509134695 Tehran IRNA in English 1306 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 5, IRNA — Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah arrived here Tuesday [5 September] and was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon his arrival, Bin-'Alawi told reporters that he is scheduled to hold talks with the Iranian officials on issues of mutual interest and on further expansion of Tehran-Muscat relations.

He added that relations between Tehran and Muscat were growing and that high-ranking officials of the two countries had exchanged numerous visits to further expand mutual ties to serve mutual interests.

Asked on the upcoming session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), to be held in Muscat, he said the session is to discuss subjects relevant to plight of Bosnian, Iraqi and Palestinian nations.

On presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, Bin-'Alawi said that Oman has been making efforts towards maintaining peace, security and stability in the region with the conviction that regional countries owed their progress and development to security and stability.

To this end, he added, the Omani officials along with other regional countries have been striving for expansion and broadening of cooperation in line with interests of regional nations.

On Muscat's mediatory efforts to settle differences between Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates], he said "relations between Tehran and Abu Dhabi needs no mediation because the two neighboring countries share many common views and mutual interests. What is being raised as differences between the two countries would definitely be settled through ways and means acceptable for both sides," he added.

Bin-'Alawi said Oman's role is to bring the two sides' views closer.

On future of Iraq, Bin-'Alawi said that it will depend on the will of the Iraqi nation. But what is important for Omani officials at this juncture is lifting of economic sanctions once Baghdad demonstrated respect for the U.N. Security Council resolutions, he added.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Velayati

LD0509202895 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs who is currently in Tehran, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. At that meeting, Mr Bin-'Alawi conveyed the greetings of Sultan Qabus and the Omani people to the president and submitted a report on the current developments in the region. He expressed his country's interest in expanding and strengthening ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his part welcomed the expansion of cooperation between the two countries and said: The problems of the region and Islamic countries as a whole require the countries of the region to exchange views with each other without the interference of foreigners.

The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs also met Foreign Minister Velayati today. Mr Bin-'Alawi stressed Oman's full backing for the agreements already reached between the two countries and for the expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At that meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the expanding trend of relations between the two countries and underlined the need to follow up all the agreements reached between the two countries.

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Syrian Official Visits, Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN0209182695 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam this evening. The meeting was attended by Dr. Hasan Habibi, Iranian first vice president; Reza Ma'ayri, assistant to the Iranian president [title as heard]; Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs; the Syrian ambassador in Tehran; and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Vice President Khaddam conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the current developments in the region and their repercussions on their peoples. He also conveyed President al-Asad's greetings and best wishes.

They reviewed developments and discussed issues of mutual interest. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was pleased with President al-Asad's message and asked Khaddam to convey his greetings and best wishes to President al-Asad.

Khaddam and the accompanying Syrian delegation arrived in Tehran this afternoon. They were received by Iranian First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi, a number of Iranian Presidency and Foreign Ministry officials, and Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan.

Replying to questions posed by correspondents at Tehran Airport, Khaddam said: The ongoing regional developments and the nature of bilateral relations require consultations between the leaderships in both countries regarding these developments.

Asked about the intransigent Israeli position on the issue of full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan, Khaddam said: The Syrian position is clear. Any talk about peace which does not secure Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines is nonsense and is not based on reality.

Regarding developments in Iraq, Khaddam said: We stand alongside the Iraqi people and the unity of the Iraqi state. We also believe that all that pertains to Iraq should be determined by the Iraqi people and not by the foreign countries.

For his part, Dr. Hasan Habibi said: As Khaddam has kindly noted, this visit aims to exchange views on developments in the region. He added: We hold such meetings whenever developments require their convocation. Naturally, we will discuss issues of mutual interest.

In a working session this afternoon, the Syrian and Iranian sides discussed some bilateral issues and the recent developments in the region.

Meets With SAIRI Leader

JN0509152695 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1405 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Tehran.

SAIRI sources said the meeting lasted several hours, during which the two sides discussed the latest developments in the region. The sources added that al-Hakim and 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam emphasized the need to have the Iraqi Muslim people assume their vanguard and fundamental role in the process of changing the regime in Iraq, and to confront all those who try to cancel the Iraqi people's momentous efforts to gain their freedom and independence.

Adviser Cited on Opposition to Partition of Iraq

LD0509151295 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep. 5, IRNA — Tehran, Ankara and Damascus will not allow any country inside or outside the region to partition Iraq, wrote Persian language daily IRAN here Tuesday [5 September] quoting 'Ali Khorram, senior advisor to the foreign minister.

Khorram, who is also in charge of organizing the forthcoming tripartite meeting of Iran, Syria and Turkey on developments in Iraq, said that participants of the meeting were against any foreign intervention in Iraq.

He said that latest developments in Iraq would be discussed in the meeting which is to be held in Tehran on September 7.

Referring to recent talks between Iraq's rival Kurdish groups in Dublin, Khorram stressed that Tehran, Ankara and Damascus would consider legitimate only those talks held under the supervision of neighboring countries.

The three regional countries, he added, would continue watching closely the situation in Iraq, he said, adding "we will prevent terrorism from being exported to the regional countries."

Asked about the reasons behind the delay in holding the trilateral meeting, Khorram responded that the delay was due to Turkey's military expedition to Iraqi Kurdistan

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with an aim of suppressing Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

Asked whether any change in the geographical borders in the region would serve the interests of the Americans and Europeans, he said "suporting any move that may create tension in a region in which the West has huge interests is not to the benefit of the Americans or Europeans becauses past experiences show that any crisis in the region would reduce or even stop cooperation."

There are evidences that the Israelis are supporting harassment and secessionist moves in regional countries but in the long run this will not benefit the United States and Europe, he said.

Policy Statement With Turkey, Syria on Iraq Issued

LD0509184395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of senior Iranian, Turkish and Syrian specialists was held today aimed at preparing a final statement and reviewing the agenda of the session of the foreign ministers of the three countries in Tehran. The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria are to meet in Tehran on Friday [8 September] to review the latest developments in Iraq, particularly the provocations against Iraq's territorial integrity.

At the end of the session of the specialists, which lasted for three hours and was held behind closed doors, Mr Khorram, the Foreign Minister's adviser and head of the secretariat of the Iran- Turkey-Syria tripartite session, said to reporters: All three countries are concerned about the events in Iraq, and interference by foreign countries in developments in Iraq will be reviewed at the session.

He added: At their joint session the three countries will try to arrive at a correct evaluation of the developments in Iraq, and to prepare their joint policy on that basis.

Naval Commander on Joint Maneuvers, IRGC Changes

LD0609104895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0640 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Interview with Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, commander of the Navy, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: from the "Islamic Revolution Guards Program" — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Is there a possibility that we will have joint maneuvers in the future with another country or is this not a possibility?

[Shamkhani] We consider the Persian Gulf region to be an area of security, peace, unity, friendship, and fraternity. We believe that the security of the region must be provided by the countries of the region. On this basis, we place emphasis on having friendly and close ties with these countries. We have, therefore, maintained and will continue to maintain regular naval traffic to the ports of various countries. We have both sent vessels and received vessels. For example, an Omani vessel recently docked at Bushehr. We ourselves have travelled to the countries of the region. We have invited regional naval commanders to visit Iran.

We have also planned joint maneuvers. For example, we held a joint maneuver with Pakistan. We will have another joint maneuver with Pakistan this year. We are also drawing up plans with another [as heard] Arab country in the region toward conducting a joint maneuver. God willing, we will make an announcement when our plans reach the operational stage. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Rear Admiral Shamkhani, Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], has said that the IRGC is to be transformed into a rapid reaction force in the region. As the navy's commander, what is your assessment of this force's combat capabilities in terms of the realization of this wish?

[Shamkhani] We must look at this issue from two angles: First, historical, and, second, organizational and mission-related, so to speak. From the historical perspective, the IRGC has been exactly that — a rapid reaction force — during these past 17 years. That is to say, from its inception the IRGC's mission has been rapid action and reaction in response to various events.

From the initial formation of the IRGC, in relation to the issue of [Iranian] Kurdestan and the confrontation of internal conflicts, such as the actions of the monafeqin [hypocrites; reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq], and during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, the IRGC has been, in reality, a flexible, rapid action force with a home-grown foundation based on a kind of previously unknown defense in the face of aggressive and invading forces. That is its history.

Thus, what the IRGC is planning today is, in fact, to formalize a reality which has been its life and growing ground so far. [passage omitted]

In view of this historical experience, it is incumbent on the IRGC to fill any vacuum of power. This applies both to domestic events and to the confrontation of foreign aggression. This is part of the IRGC's mission. On the basis of its past and its mission,

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the IRGC is moving, according to a specific strategy and within the framework of a completely clear and transparent military doctrine, toward giving shape to its organizational form, its training, and its annual maneuvers in line with its past experience.

One part of this must be at sea, it goes without saying. The Islamic Republic of Iran possesses an outstanding geopolitical position on the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. It has numerous islands, 17 islands. It has an extensive coastline. No country in the region has as long a coastline as we have. We have an outstanding and possibly unique geographic position. This is something that increases the IRGC naval force's capacity as a rapid entry force. The IRGC's resources and training have taken shape and are taking shape in this framework. The IRGC naval force's standing order and organizational form are taking shape on this basis toward having a strong intuitive sense for identifying danger and recognizing the nature of the danger, the situation of that danger, and ways of confronting it. God willing, it will continue its path in this direction. [passage omitted]

Tehran Said To Export Gas Oil for 'First Time'

LD3108171295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The oil minister announced that export of gas oil has begun for the first time. According to a report by IRNA, Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i said: Despite the fact that export of gas oil had not been envisaged in this year's budget [year beginning 21 March 1995], bearing in mind price adjustments and the savings that have been made, the export of this product became possible. He added: So far about 200,000 tonnes of gas oil have been exported.

According to the oil minister, the U.S. oil embargo against Iran has not created the slightest problem in the sale of oil by Iran. During the past five months the Oil Ministry has earned the treasury $750 million more than the amount envisaged in the budget.

Crude Oil Sales Pay 'Dividends' Despite Trade Ban

LD0509190995 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Sept. 5, IRNA — A mixture of more direct sales and an assertive marketing policy appears to be paying dividends for Iran's strategy following the U.S. trade ban, with traders confirming the tight supply of Iranian crude availabilities.

Energy Compass oil bulletin reported the price of Iranian light rising to around dated Brent minus 65 cents for 'FOB' last week with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) displaying fewer barrels than in early days after the imposition of the U.S. embargo in June.

With supplies sold out until the second half of the month, NIOC was said to have rebuffed an approach from Italian refiner 'ISAB' for extra September spot barrels after taking 30,000 barrels per day more in August to supplement the same amount taken in term volume.

Trading sources were estimating that around 250,000 barrels per day out of 400,000 potentially displaced by the U.S. ban had already been unloaded to Europe, creating a big niche for Iran in the fact that U.S. firms had to take 320,000 barrels of Russian Urals in August.

At the same time, French import of Iranian crude has dramatically stepped up to some 240,000 barrels per day, accounting for 15 percent of the country's total purchases compared with 8 per cent before the U.S. embargo this year.

A further fallout from President Bill Clinton's unilateral trade ban, according to energy compass, has been the huge drop in sales at the UAE's huge al-Fujayrah refuelling station at the mouth of the Persian Gulf because of U.S. tankers not sailing to Iran.

One source quoted bunker sales dropping to a low point and the possibility of falling to 300,000 tonnes this year, half of 1992's total and less than a third of its 1 million tonnes capacity.

In place of the U.S. tankers, Iran was said to be bunkering its large number of chartered vessels at its own oil terminal at Kharg Island.

Minister, Central Bank Governor Review Economy

LD0409124095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The sixth Islamic banking seminar on the banking system and analysis of its performance was opened in Tehran this morning with the participation of a number of our country's banking and economic affairs officials.

At the seminar's opening ceremony, Finance Minister Mohammad- Khani explained the country's economic situation during the implementation of the first social, economic, and cultural development plan of the country. On growth of liquidity and its economic effects, he said: The government has implemented the policy of stabilization of currency rate of exchange to prevent any social-economic consequences and has formed a "market regulation headquarters" to prevent a rise in prices and to regulate markets. He considered the increase in demand and growth in expenditure as

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reasons for the increase in inflation. At present, our most basic problem, he said, was the issue of inflation and that the implementation of stabilization policies are taking place to curb inflation. He added that curbing inflation and privatization are among the most principled policies of the government. The 40 percent growth in Tehran's stock exchange indicators, compared to last year, is one of the signs of the government successes in this spheres.

Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh also in his speech assessed interest-free banking system. On the implementation of law on interest-free banking activities, he said: During implementation of the first development plan and during 12 years of its performance, the interest-free banking system was successful in its performance. An increase of over 56 billion rials in deposits is a testimony to this fact. Referring to the policies on the country's banking network to repatriate currency obtained from export, Mr. Nurbakhsh said the new currency system has shown its first positive effects. He added that we are in a good position to support the current currency rate of exchange next year [begins 20 March 1996] and guarantee the creation of economic stability in the country. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Increased Bond Transactions

LD0409171195 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA — Economy and Finance Minister Morteza Mohammadkhan here Monday [4 September] said that volume of negotiable bonds transactions between March 21 and August 22 topped rls. 448.2 billion, a rise of 40.2 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

Mohammadkhan, who made the remark at the inaugural ceremony of the sixth gathering on the Islamic banking, said that volume of transactions at Tehran stock exchange hall rose up to rls. 798.3 billion in 1994 from rls. 120.8 billion in 1993.

He added that policy for stabilization of hard currency rate would go on by end of the year (to end March 20, 1996) and that the rates would be evaluated for next year.

He said that stabilization of hard currency rates would prevent intervention of foreign exchange dealers in production and export procedures, making export and import of goods sensible at their real price.

Moreover, he said that stabilization of hard currency rate would build up trust of the trade parties, bringing about an increase in exchange of goods.

Mohammadkhan put a growth in volume of liquidity at 28.5 percent and the inflation rate at 35.2 percent last year.

He added that index price of consumption goods and services in the first five-year economic development plan (1989-1994) showed 18.3 percent of growth annually and said the rate of consumption by the public sector had reached up to 17.3 percent in 1993 from 8.5 percent in 1992. He added that consumption rate by the private sector dropped down to 7.6 percent in 1993 from 9.3 percent in 1992.

Mohammadkhan said that Iran's banking system was to sell between rls. 800 billion and rls. 1,000 billion worth of its properties this year.

He concluded that state-run organizations should accelerate ceding their companies to the private sector so as to lower a growth in liquidity and increase investments.

Another lecturer at the seminar was the Islamic republic central bank governor Mohsen Nourbakhsh, who said that volume of deposits by the public in the Iranian banks topped over rls. 56,000 billion over the past two months.

Nourbakhsh said that Iranian banks had spent rls. 34,000 billion on the industrial and agricultural sectors as well as on housing and transportation so far.

He predicted that rate of foreign currencies would be stable by the end of the year.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Presides Over Trade Meeting

LD3008193995 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA — Special budgets for free trade zones of Iran in Qeshm, Kish and Chah Bahar of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman were approved at the 23rd Assembly of the High Council of Free Trade Zones of Iran presided over by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday [30 August].

In the adopted budget plan, revenues of the free trade zones were estimated to be rls [rials] 50 billion for Qeshm, rls 66 billion for Kish, and rls 13 billion for Chah Bahar, and current expenditures in each of them were estimated to be respectively rls 13, 18 and four billion.

The value of finished products to have been imported into Kish, Qeshm, and Chah Bahar for the current Iranian year (ending March 20, 1996) were also estimated to hit respectively dlrs. 100, 120 and 45 million.

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A development budget has also been approved for each of the said free trade zone areas which would be expended for various infrastrucutural projects such as completing an international airport in Qeshm.

President Laud Cooperatives for War Veterans

LD0309222195 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 3 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Sunday [3 September] described the cooperatives as an appropriate means for materialization of social justice.

Speaking in a nationwide meeting of the cooperatives of war veterans on the occasion of the Cooperatives Week, he said partnership in the sector of cooperatives could serve to develop the economy of country in addition to its moral beneficence.

The president said the justice, logic, and expediency of the Islamic Republic require the government to uphold the rights of the war-disabled and helping them to set up their own cooperatives is one of the ways to do so.

He said the presence of the war veterans in political, economic, cultural, and scientific arenas is a must and the government should take advantage of their services in production and business.

Some were criticizing partnership of the war veterans in business at first, but, such an attitude can bring about unwanted results for the country, he said. "If the the more benefit-producing sector of the economy was in the hands of the profiteers, the whole of the country would have fallen into their hands," he said.

My aspiration is that those faithful forces who made sacrifices during the sacred defence (Iraqi-imposed war 1980-1988) should have an active presence in all serious issues of the country, one of the easiest avenue for which is cooperatives.

The president said the cooperatives are at the first stage and would have bright prospects and today all people have accepted that cooperatives are completely an Islamic and effective structure for the producing sector.

He called on the cooperatives to have active participation in large infrastructural plans including building dams, exploration of mines, agricultural areas, water-shedding projects, and fisheries.

President Rafsanjani awarded seven managers of model cooperatives with certificates of merit.

Before the president, Minister of Cooperatives, Gholam Reza Shafe'i gave a report on activities of his ministry. The government has financed rls. 310 billion to the cooperatives during 1989-1984.

He said 29,000 cooperatives are active throughout the country, 3,600 of which are of the war-disabled.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Success of Islamic Revolution

LD3108155195 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rasfsanjani said here on Thursday [31 August] that the Islamic revolution is the outcome of the struggle of the most faithful and pious people proving that Islam and divine inspiration is able to manage state affairs very efficiently.

In a meeting with members of the Society of Islamic Coalition, he said, "our generation succeeded for the first time to break the isolation of Islam and promote its dignity and power through struggle and steadfastness of various revolutionary groups including the society of Islamic coalition."

The president touched on the ominous fate of the so-called warriors such as the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO), nationalists, liberals and communists who turned to the enemies of Islam and took refuge in the U.S. and other countries living a miserable life. He said the experience of the Islamic revolution showed that only the revolutionary and faithful groups remain at the scene and that their Islamic and enlightening thought has served to promote the status and [words indistinct] spiritual influence have [words indistinct] reservation and that the just stand has been regarded in the world public opinion as valuable and trustworthy.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said objection of many countries to follow the U.S. trade embargo on Iran and the frustration of the U.S. Administration in its attempt to isolate Iran, is a further proof to the status of the Islamic Republic.

Prior to president's speech, head of the Society of Islamic Coalition, Habibullah Asgar Owladi said that the outstanding progresses made in the first five-year development plan (1989-1994), lauded by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i yesterday, indicated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is treading on the path of progress and growth.

He added that the services of the government in the recent years and its vigorous efforts to establish social justice, eradicate deprivation, develop the country and adujst the economy is a soure of pride.

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Khamene'i Rejects Criticisms of Theologians

LD0509205395 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, addressed a group of theology students this afternoon at the start of the term for extracurricular jurisprudential studies. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the honorable leader spoke of the existence of certain arrogant motives in opposition to the learned men of religion as well as the historical root for the opposition of colonial powers to theology schools and Islamic clergy.

At the end of his speech, he said: Arrogant policies, which put Reza Khan and his son in power, have continued to be active against religion and the learned men of Islam with an anti-religious motivation. And today their followers and those who do not accept the religious message are busy humiliating and insulting the men of religion and the theology schools. At the same time, a knowledgeable theology student in Qom gets by with a very small grant. Therefore, insulting the ulema and the learned by saying they make a living out of religion is clearly an injustice and thoroughly unfair.

President Addresses Role of Radio, TV in Society

LD0509192295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In his address this afternoon to the political and news directorates of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed thanks for, and satisfaction over, the all-encompassing, unstinting and valuable efforts of all those involved in this important, all-reaching and powerful medium in creating and raising the level of awareness in society.

He stressed: At a time when the enemies of Islam are using all their abilities to eliminate the ideology of religious government and to reduce the power of Islam in the management of society, the Voice and Vision Organization, as an effective and trustworthy medium, has an important duty to raise political awareness of society. In all fairness, it has managed to play a good role in recent years in confronting and neutralizing the enemy's move.

The president spoke of the importance of the position and role of the Voice and Vision, especially its political department, in placing values and ideas based on true Islam in their correct positions, as well as in eliminating embellishment and impurities from the life and thoughts of an Islamic society, saying: Despite all the difficulties, obstacles and problems in the period following the victory of the Islamic revolution and before the stabilization of this sacred system, today our country is in a very strong position and is growing. Today there are coordinated and extensive efforts by the enemies to dishearten the people and to create despair about the ability of the government and its sacred aspirations. In this critical juncture, the duty of all the media as well as publicity and propaganda organizations of the nation is to be more aware in facing this dangerous plot.

The president pointed to the useful and effective steps and programs of the Voice and Vision to politicizing the people, which continues to be emphasized by the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution Khamene'i, and said: Increasing political awareness and acumen among the people is, in fact, for the sake of logical and timely reactions and stances of society in the face of various deviating trends so that society is not influenced by demagogy and attempts to create an adverse climate. The president said: The supervision of the the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution over the Voice and Vision in itself adds to the credibility and high value of this important medium. And on this basis, the activities of this organization are more acceptable to, and trusted by, the people.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the extensive progress made by the country following the implementation of the first five-year plan and pointed to the availability of the valuable ability, as well as the rich potential in the country, which had laid the basis for independence, self-sufficiency and severing reliance on the West, announcing: Our media can show the effects of construction and the proud reality of the present and be the best reflection of the power of the management of religion and divine thoughts. [passage omitted]

Correction to Military Exercise Under Way

WA0609162295

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Military Exercise Under Way in Kaseh Kabud Region," published in the 29 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 73:

Make sourceline read: ...LD2808115795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Aug 95...(supplying missing information)

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Correction to Jannati: Khomeyni's Will

WA0609163195

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Jannati: Khomeyni's Will More 'Important' Than Law" published in the 29 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 85:

Make sourceline read: ...LD2508144695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 25 Aug 95...(supplying missing information)

Pakistan

U.S. Said To Install 'Secret Devices' in North

BK0409095495 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 26 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[By Ahmad Imran Bajwah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — It has been learned that the United States plans to install secret devices in the northern areas to closely monitor the military activities of China, Iran, and Pakistan. Informed sources have disclosed that a 12-member U.S. team is likely to visit Pakistan shortly under the cover of a project to examine the causes of the decreasing height of the world's second highest peak, K2, and climatic changes in the region. The Geology Department of the Peshawar Engineering University has formally invited the U.S. team to visit Pakistan in this connection.

It has been learned that senior U.S. diplomats have become extraordinarily interested in monitoring defense relations between China, Iran, and Pakistan, and their military activities. The Government of Pakistan is being pressured at all levels to ensure that the project is completed. It has also been learned that U.S. Central Command Chief General P. Hoar will visit Pakistan shortly. A few days ago, the first secretary of the American Embassy pressured the deputy secretary of the Ministry of Education at the Shahid-i-Millat Secretariat to have the no-objection certificate issued immediately for the visit of the U.S. team. He also asked the Pakistani official to complete all formalities in this connection as soon as possible. It is said that the U.S. team will stay in the northern areas for about two years to study the causes of the decrease in the height of K2. During these two years, the team will be able to complete its assigned mission easily. At the finalization of the plans to instal the secret devices in the northern areas to monitor the military activities of Iran and China, the sources revealed that the U.S. authorities assured Pakistan military aid could be resumed and that it could make Congress pass a bill to supply the F-16 aircraft and other spare parts to Islamabad, if the project was allowed.

Officials Deny Involvement With Afghan Movement

Spokesman Cites 'Total Neutrality'

BK0609081995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has dismissed the allegation made by President Rabbani's spokesman that Pakistan intelligence agencies were responsible for the military successes of the Taleban in Western Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan, while deploring the continuing conflict between the various Afghan factions, had maintained its total neutrality. It was, in fact, President Rabbani himself who acknowledged publicly a few weeks ago that he had financed the Taleban movement.

The spokesman reiterated the position that Pakistan was ready to assist in any way possible the brotherly Afghan parties to arrive at a peaceful and durable political solution which would bring to an end the ongoing fratricidal conflict. It was, however, up to the Afghans themselves to devise and accept such a plan.

Envoy to Iran Denies Assistance

LD0609083395 Tehran IRNA in English 0703 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep. 6, IRNA — Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Khalid Mahmud categorically denied that Islamabad was 'behind the Taleban movement' who are responsible for the current crisis in Afghanistan, reported IRAN NEWS daily here Wednesday [6 September].

Speaking to the English-language paper, the ambassador said "Pakistan never extended any assistance to the Taleban."

Taleban militants Tuesday seized the strategically important Herat Province on the border of Iran.

"My country's interests are in the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan," stressed the diplomat adding "We have no plan to take sides in Afghanistan's internal conflict...and we won't do the same in the future either."

He noted that Islamabad has always tried to encourage efforts for a durable peace in Afghanistan. "We support the actions of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference for restoring stability in Afghanistan," he added.

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Khalid Mahmud said Pakistan has fully cooperated with the Islamic Republic on the Afghan issue from the very beginning of the crisis and the two countries have had no disagreements.

An important military delegation from Pakistan arrived here last week for talks with their Iranian counterpart, he said adding, the two sides held satisfactory talks for reciprocal cooperation in various fields including the Taleban's actions and Afghanistan as a whole.

He ruled out any foreign influence in the Taleban movement and said the people in Afghanistan were frustrated because of the collapse of law and order there, "so they follow any ray of hope whenever and wherever they see it," he was quoted.

Bhutto Returns From Official Visit to China

BK0609020395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto discussed international issues and bilateral relations and cooperation during her meetings with President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng in Beijing today. Briefing newsmen about the talks, a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said the prime minister spoke to her Chinese counterpart about recent developments in Indian occupied Kashmir. Prime Minister Li Peng reiterated the Chinese position on the Kashmir issue stating that it should be settled peacefully in accordance with the UN resolutions and international agreements. The two heads of government discussed the expansion of bilateral relations, and agreed that there should be a greater exchange of visits between leaders and officials of the two countries. Both sides agreed that an international group from China's Chamber of Commerce should visit Pakistan to meet businessmen to explore new avenues of trade and investment.

The prime minister invited her Chinese counterpart to pay a visit to Pakistan. Mr. Li Peng accepted the invitation.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto later called on President Jiang Zemin. During their meeting, the Chinese president recalled his old association with Pakistan when he had been an active participant in the construction of heavy machinery and foundry complex at Taxila.

The prime minister has now returned to Islamabad.

Talks With PRC Leaders Detailed

BK0509105295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has discussed international issues and bilateral cooperation during her meetings with President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng in Beijing today. Briefing newsmen on talks, a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said the meetings with President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere and lasted one hour each.

The prime minister, at her meeting with Mr. Li Peng, discussed Sino-Pakistan cooperation on bilateral and international levels and other issues of regional importance. The prime minister briefed her Chinese counterpart on the recent developments in the Indian- occupied Kashmir. Prime Minister Li Peng reiterated Chinese position on Kashmir issue, that it should be settled peacefully in accordance with UN resolution and international agreements. The two heads of government discussed in detail expansion of bilateral relations and agreed that there should be greater exchange of visits between the leaders and officials of the two countries. It was agreed by the two sides that an international group of China's Chamber of Commerce should visit Pakistan to meet businessmen first to explore new avenues of trade and investment.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto later called on President Jiang Zemin. During their meeting, the Chinese president recalled his old association with Pakistan, when he had been an active participant in the construction of the heavy machinery and foundry complexes at Taxila. He recalled the fond memories of his stay in Pakistan some three decades ago.

Economic Ties Said To Strengthen

BK0609054695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and China have expressed their determination to further strengthen the existing economic ties and explore avenues of collaboration in the light of new opportunities available. This was the consensus during the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto's, meetings with the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, and the prime minister, Li Peng.

This was stated by an official spokesman aboard the prime minister's plane from Beijing to Islamabad last evening. He said both sides agreed that private sectors of the two countries should enter into new ventures. The businessmen of the two countries should visit each other's country. The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of the two countries would also explore new fields of cooperation.

During her separate meetings with the Chinese president and the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto also discussed regional and international issues of common

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concern, including Kashmir and hostage crisis. Need was stressed for a meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Radio Pakistan's representative says Mr. Li Peng has accepted the invitation of the prime minister to visit Pakistan.

Minister Discusses Cooperation With Korean Firms

BK0509121695 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 5 Sep 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Federal Minister for Defence, Aftab Shahban Mirani held very useful meetings with the president of two major Korean conglomerates, Hyundai Group and Daewoo Group, while he was transiting through Seoul on his way to Honolulu.

According to a message received here on Monday [4 September], in the meeting with the Hyundai Group, transfer of ship-building technology to Pakistan was discussed. Hyundai Group offered its services for construction of naval vessels for Pakistan Navy as well as technology transfer.

Mirani discussed with Daewoo Group, prospects of establishment of an army jeep assembling plant in Pakistan and the group agreed, in principle, to pursue the matter and provide further details in this regard.

During his stay Mirani also attended a lunch hosted by Ambassador of Pakistan, S. Iftikhar Murshad at Pakisan House and a number of prominent Pakistanis working in Seoul exchanged views with the minister concerning Pakistan.

Minister Says Karachi 'Normalcy' To Be Restored

BK0509141495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Interior Minister Major General Retired Nasirullah Khan Babar has said normalcy in Karachi will be restored within the next six months. Talking to newsmen in Karachi, the interior minister said the government has taken special measures to improve the situation as it was deeply concerned about the plight of the poor in the metropolis. He said now it was the duty of other political parties to come forward for ending the polarization in Karachi.

Further on Minister's Remarks

BK0609020595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Retired Nasirullah Khan Babar, the interior minister, has said that the government is working for the restoration of a durable peace in Karachi, and the situation is now improving. Speaking to newsmen in Karachi, he said the government has taken special measures to improve the situation, as it is fully aware of the hardships of the people of the city. The interior minister urged the political parties to come forward and play their proper role in order to improve the situation further. He said the government is not against political activities, but they should be within the purview of civilization and without threats.

On yesterday's strike called by the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group, the federal minister said these types of activities will not render any service to the poor; rather, they will further enhance their hardships.

Referring to the ongoing talks between Altaf Group and the government, he said he is hopeful that both sides will succeed in finding a peaceful solution. He said: We have gone to the negotiating table with an open mind and hope that the other side will also demonstrate such a spirit in order to resolve this intricate issue without delay. The federal minister said the terrorists can be eliminated immediately, provided the people—who are already cooperating with law enforcement agencies—enhance their cooperation.

On local body elections, the federal minister said the government will definitely hold elections, but only when peace is restored.

According to a press note, one person was killed in Karachi today as a result of shooting by some miscreants. One vehicle was also set on fire. In Karachi, police arrested 46 persons involved in various crimes and recovered illegal weapons and narcotics from their possession.

Editorial Sees 'Necessity' of Mediation in Kashmir

BK0409040095 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 3 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "US Pressure for Indo-Pak Dialogue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States President, Bill Clinton, has favored direct talks between India and Pakistan for the resolution of Kashmir dispute, saying that 'we have offered to assist this process in any way possible'. The two sides, he emphasized, would have to take into account the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in this respect. Almost at the same time, Robin Raphel, a US State Department official now visiting Sri Lanka, has also reiterated Washington's call for 'meaningful' talks between India and Pakistan to resolve their longstanding differences. In another significant development, China has express full support to Pakistan's position about meaningful talks with India. The increasing international support for Indo-Pakistan talks on Kashmir comes against the backdrop

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of continuing hostage drama in the occupied Kashmir. Indeed the hostage crisis has indicated, beyond any shadow of doubt, how tenuous is New Delhi's hold on the region. The international community is now waking up to the true scale of the violations of human rights in Kashmir. Several key countries have also brushed aside the Indian claim that Pakistan is involved in the kidnapping of western tourists in Kashmir. Islamabad, on the other hand says the hostage drama is in fact state-managed.

Apparently, both these positions are rejected by the outside world, which now tends to see them in the context of the ongoing Kashmir struggle for freedom. Pakistan has been consistently seeking talks with India on Kashmir, but it has maintained that such talks be conducted through a third party mediation. The latter is unacceptable to India, for it abhors the internationalisation of the dispute that the outside mediation implies and yet the role of outside powers in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute remains crucial. Minus their role, the two sides will remain frozen in their inflexible positions for, maybe, another fifty years. The fact is that no Indian or Pakistan leader at this point in time is willing to take any initiative for these talks to get under way. A move towards reconciliation in the subcontinent runs contrary to the popular sentiment. It is likely to be perceived as a placatory gesture towards one's worst enemy, hence the resulting political fallout is sure to prove fatal only recently, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao complained that his Pakistani counterpart was not interested in Indo-Pak dialogue. Ms. Benazir, in her recent interview with Eyewitness an Indian video magazine, has responded: Why can't India, why can't Mr. Rao take that (first) step. The hesitation, and hostility, on both sides of the divide for a dialogue can be countered by having a powerful mediator. India would do well to recognise this necessity. Kashmiris, in the meanwhile are themselves dictating the pace of events in their enslaved state.

Radio Reports on Punjab Ministers' Resignation

BK0509155795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Punjab cabinet members belonging to the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] have tendered their resignation to the governor of Punjab today. This was stated by senior minister of Punjab, Makhdum Altaf Ahmad, at a news conference in Lahore this evening. The ministers who tendered their resignations include: Makhdum Altaf Ahmad, Afzal Sindhu, Rana Ikram Rabbani, Chaudhary Badruddin, Rana Aftab Ahmad, Ghulam Sarvar Khan, Abdur Rahmani Khar, Ghulam Dastagir Lak, Tariq Bashir Cheema, Tikka Mohammad Iqbal, Nazeer Ahmad Utara, Syed Nazim Hussain Shah, Shah Nawaz Cheema, and Malik Mushtaq Awan, who is the president of PPP for Punjab.

President Said To Impose Governor's Rule in Punjab

BK0609041195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President has issued a proclamation directing the Punjab governor to assume on his behalf the functions of the provincial government and all or any of the powers vested in or exercisable by anybody or authority in the province other than provincial assembly.

The president issued this proclamation under Article 234 of the Constitution on the receipt of reports from the Punjab governor and other information made available that a situation has arisen in which the Punjab government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The president directed to make such incidental and consequential provisions which appear to be necessary or desirable for giving effect to the objectives of this proclamation.

The chief minister and provincial ministers of that province shall forthwith cease to perform functions of their office, and in the exercise of the functions which the governor has been directed to assume as herein before stated, the governor shall act to such extent and subject to such conditions as the president shall from time to time deem fit to give or impose.

Earlier, the 14 members of the Punjab cabinet belonging to Pakistan People's Party tendered their resignations to the Punjab governor last evening. Four advisers to the former Punjab chief minister belonging to Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group tendered their resignation. They are Haji Mohammad Aslam Kiki, Chaudhary Sadaqat Ali Rai Ilyas, and Mr. Atta Mohammad Manika, and Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Mohal. Addressing a joint news conference in Lahore, they said they were resigning due to their differences with the chief minister, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Watto, and his policies of nepotism, favoritism, and corruption.

Article Views Alliance Government in Punjab

95AS0470E Karachi AKHBAR-E-JEHAN in Urdu 16 Jul 95 p 13

[Article by Addulshakoor Mirza: "Cold War for the Position of Chief Minister in Punjab"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in our beloved nation is serious because of terrorism rampant in Sindh and its largest city Karachi. Everyone wants to resolve

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the situation in Karachi as soon as possible. Meanwhile in Punjab, the largest province in our nation, differences are growing in the alliance government there.

After the appointment of a governor to Punjab, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] had started a campaign against Chief Minister Manzur Ahmed Watoo. This campaign started several months ago has taken momentum and the government is forced to pay attention to another front in addition to trying to control the situation in Karachi. The anti-government groups appear to be very happy because of cold war going on between Manzur Watoo and the PPP. The sudden interference by leaders of the Junejo League and other coalition groups has caused a temporary thaw in the cold war going on against Manzur Ahmed Watoo. In this situation, it could be costly for the PPP to upset its supporting parties. Therefore, the PPP has to think hard before making a decision. However, the factional politics within the Pakistan Muslim League (J) and various other actions could cause cracks in its unity. The PPP decision to remove Chief Minister Manzur Ali Watoo does not appear to be [in danger of being] carried out soon because there is no better person for this position keeping in mind the present situation of the bureaucracy. If Mian Watoo is removed from office for some reason and is replaced by a PPP leader, the bureaucracy will have less possibility to play at will and manipulate the two groups. This would lead to a situation similar to the first PPP rule which is not acceptable to the bureaucracy, officer rule, and other people who always remain in control. If, against their wishes, Mian Watoo is forced to leave his seat of power, they would prefer a chief minister from the Muslim League (J) rather than from the PPP. Some opportunist politicians consider the Chowdhury Akthar Ali family to be the strong candidate after the Muslim League (J) leader Hamid Nasir Chath. These circles believe that if Manzur Watoo is relived of chief minister's office, Chowdhury Akhtar Ali's groups will become important. It is possible that Chowdhury Akthar Ali is given a responsible position in this situation.

Recently, when the leaders of the PPP coalition parties met to discuss the situation at Hamid Nasir Chath's house, Chowdhury Akthar Ali was not present there. However, some circles later said that it is possible that Chowdhury Akhtar Ali's groups will take advantage of the new situation. Chowdhury Akhtar Ali who is from Sialkot is the chairman of the standing committee on internal affairs in the National Assembly. His younger brother, Chowdhury Abdulsatar, is also a member of the National Assembly. Chowdhury Akhtar Ali's son, Chowdhury Khush Akhtar Subhani, is a state cabinet member now while Chowdhury Abdulsatar's son, Chowdhury Armaghan Abuhani, is a member of the Punjab Assembly. Thus, four members of this family have access to the legislature. Chowdhury Akhtar Ali also has support of other members. When Chowdhury Akhtar Ali was member of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (N) and was an important supporter of Mian Nawaz Sharif and the important decision to appoint late Mian Ghulam Haider Wain as Punjab's chief minister, many supporters of Chowdhury Akthar Ali had suggested to Mian Nawaz Sharif to appoint Akhtar Ali the chief minister. Chowdhury Akhtar Ali himself has also demanded that in the light of his political importance the position should be given to the group with more support behind it. However, later when Chowdhury Akhtar Ali difference with Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wain and Nawaz Sharif, Chowdhury Akhtar Ali played an important role in the campaign to get the no-confidence motion against Ghulam Haider Wain passed. Thus, he had not only got respect for his political strategy in Punjab but also had vindicated himself against Ghulam Haider Wain for pushing out Chowdhury Akhtar Ali group from the regional municipal politics and District Council of Sialkot. If any changes are made in Punjab's chief minister's position by the Muslim League (J), the party leaders have to keep this important group of their party in mind. Otherwise, this lava smoldering within the Muslim League (J) can harm the party at any time. Chowdhury Akhtar Ali is healthy after his recent sickness and has toured his constituency. Chowdhury Khush Akhtar Subhani, his son, is also campaigning to keep close contact with the people. Now we have to see what importance this family and group is given in the future.

Sri Lanka

Minister Rejects Talks With LTTE on Hostages

BK0509120395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The deputy minister for defense, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, says that if the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attempts to move the hostage ferry, Iris Moana, from the present position without the security clearance from the ICRC [International Committee of Red Cross], the security forces will destroy it. He told the SLBC that the LTTE may try to use the ferry as a floating bomb against the security forces. If the ferry is to move, it must be thoroughly inspected by the ICRC and assured that there are no explosives.

Referring to attempts by the LTTE to move hostages to undisclosed locations, the minister said that this was a clear indication that the LTTE was trying to use the

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hostages as a human shield when they fight the security forces. The government has informed its position to the ICRC in respect of the hostage drama. There was no information from the LTTE through the ICRC.

Referring to newspaper reports which said yesterday that the LTTE has laid some conditions to secure the release of hostages, Col. Ratwatte said that the government had no intention to negotiate with the LTTE on the hostages issue or any other matter at this juncture. Both parties exchange information through the ICRC.

The LTTE killed two crew members of the passenger ferry hijacked in the north six days ago with 144 people on board. The LTTE killed the two men who were part of the eight-men crew of the Iris Moana after seizing the ferry off the Mullaittivu coast on Tuesday [29 August].

The news of the ferry began trickling in as the LTTE allowed civilians to enter the town for the first time since the ferry crisis began. The AFP news agency reported that crew members and the 136 male and female passengers had been segregated and were being held in separate LTTE camps in Mullaittivu. However, the LTTE's clandestine radio was silent about the crisis. The LTTE had told the ICRC that they want the government initiate negotiations with them for the release of the crew and the passengers — all Tamil civilians traveling to a small island in the north.

LTTE's Financial Head Arrested in Colombo

BK0109131695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A multimillionaire Tamil businessman living in a highly [as heard] residential area in Colombo has been arrested and detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by police for allegedly running the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] financial operations in Colombo, including remittances extorted from Tamil refugees and other expatriates.

Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that investigations have allegedly revealed that the multimillionaire handled around 200 million rupees for the LTTE annually and served as the organization's financial head in Colombo. The 41-year-old businessman operated a plush office of a marketing firm importing cooking and vegetable oil in Colombo which is used as a front for the undercover operation of the LTTE's financial center which had gone undetected for the last three years. A close relative and a business associate of the multimillionaire businessman had also been arrested and detained.

Legislators Call For Resignation of Cabinet Members

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Sept 6 (AFP) — Sri Lankan ruling legislators lambasted the government for alleged inaction and sought the resignation of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's cabinet, political sources said Wednesday.

The party crisis came just after three senior ministers opposed Kumaratunga's radical peace plan to end Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist war which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

The monthly closed-door meeting of People's Alliance (PA) MPs on Monday, turned ugly when senior ministers tried to persuade back benchers they were implementing a "well-thought out development strategy", the sources said.

However a legislator who was at the meeting said the complainants remained unmoved. "The MP's shouted that the cabinet must resign if they can't do their job properly," the source said.

The MPs complained they could not remove uncooperative bureaucrats and police officers from their constituencies and could not get any work done through cabinet ministers. They were also angry that neither the president nor the prime Minister attended these meetings.

Several MP's walked out of the meeting, the source said.

The PA has only a one-seat majority in the 225-member parliament but is supported by 17 Tamil legislators although they remain outside the governing coalition.

Proposals aimed at resolving the ethnic conflict was due to go before a parliamentary committee this month but it will not be delayed by several months because of internal opposition.

A senior minister has admitted that Colombo would find it difficult to convince the majority Sinhala community to allow greater autonomy to minority Tamils unless the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was crushed.

The LTTE as well as radical Sinhalese groups have opposed the plan unveiled by Kumaratunga on August.

Meanwhile, a local councillor in the southern resort of Hikkaduwa stripped to his underwear during a council session to protest the translation of the national anthem, press reports said.

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Opposition regional council leader Chandra de Silva, removed his clothes and addressed the assembly Tuesday against singing the anthem in Tamil, Sinhalese dailies reported.

Other members from the majority Sinhala community, also tried to take off their clothes before the meeting was prematurely adjourned, the report said.

The action followed the singing of the national anthem in Tamil at a ceremony here four days ago. It was the first time in 40 years that a Tamil version of the anthem was sung.

Information Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake told parliament Tuesday that the Tamil version of the "Namo Namo Martha" national anthem had been recorded in 1955 but had never been played before.

President Calls For Efforts To Attract Investment

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has called for joint efforts to attract foreign capital to South Asia and has offered to establish a bureau to promote investment.

The president told the South Asian business leaders forum in Colombo yesterday that Sri Lanka was keen to become the hub port of Asia and a financial services center as regional trade barriers were progressively dismantled. She emphasized that international investors began to show interest in South Asia only after India started its economic liberalization process in recent years. The vast Indian domestic market was the key attraction. The president called for more trade agreements in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to boost economic cooperation. She also said bilateral agreements should be encouraged until the South Asian Preferential Trade [Arrangement], SAPTA, becomes a reality in the next few years. SAPTA seeks to establish a free trade area within SAARC countries.

Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Lakshman Kadirgamar, said the initial phase of exchanging lists of commodities and services for which member countries agree to lift trade and tariff barriers will be completed by December.

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